

Table of exchange rates for various currencies including Hong Kong, Japan, and others.

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Outlook

The easy way to lose \$2.5bn



Features

'Pleasure revenge' sweeps America



Sport

Battered Britain

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City warned 5 years ago of \$2.5bn fraud

World's biggest financial scandal

Paul Murphy and Patrick Donovan

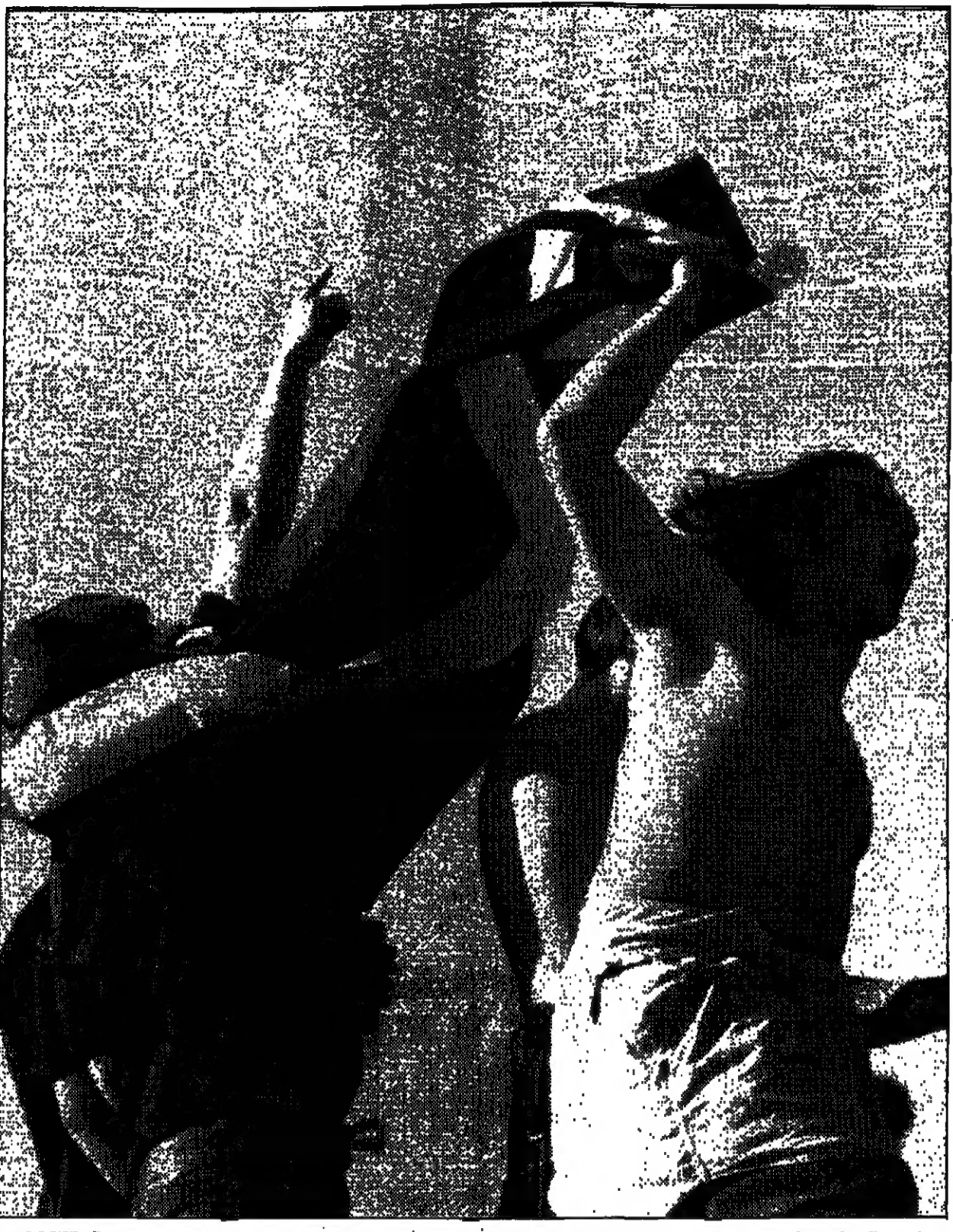
FORMAL warning which could have prevented the massive \$2.5 billion copper fraud at Japan's Sumitomo Corporation was received nearly five years ago by the City-based regulators who police the international commodity markets.



Yasuo Hamanaka... key role in setting world prices

special request for our company's internal accounting purpose only and I guarantee that this will not cause you any trouble/damage/loss at all.

cate that by 1992 the Securities and Futures Authority — the City watchdog with responsibility for monitoring UK firms which trade through London's financial markets — was receiving regular and detailed information on the activities of a string of brokers acting for Mr Hamanaka.



Soccer fans mark the arrival of the 20,000-strong Tartan Army which descended on London last night, requiring an extra 1,000 officers over the weekend to keep the peace for today's Euro 96 match at Wembley between England and Scotland, writes John Duncan.

Police were hoping for a repeat of the good-natured scenes in Birmingham for the Scots game against Holland, and early signs yesterday were good as the first pipes arrived in Trafalgar Square. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Euro 96, pages 11-12

The announcement that Sumitomo, one of Japan's biggest corporations, had lost more than \$2.5 billion prompted City authorities to work throughout Thursday night to draw up emergency measures to prevent the collapse of financial markets.

The documents, which were sent by Mr Hamanaka in an attempt to 'cover his tracks', contained a handwritten document in which he said his client should not be named in any press reports.

The documents contain copies of a series of handwritten notes which were faxed on October 1, 1991, to the offices of an American metals broker with whom Mr Hamanaka dealt in the past.

On November 22, the American broker forwarded this correspondence to David King, chief executive of the LME, explaining that he had refused to comply with Mr Hamanaka's request.

Honours for pop fiction queens

Ruth Rendell and Joanna Trollope are among the stars in today's birthday line-up



I've had a bellyful, says Major

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

JOHN Major yesterday said he had a "bellyful" of Tory infighting, warning party activists that they cannot afford to be distracted from their main task of winning the general election.

His warning came at the end of a disastrous week for the Prime Minister, marked by a series of damaging rows over Britain's future in Europe, which included the provocative intervention by Lady Thatcher.

Labour pounced gleefully on the squabbling. The deputy leader, John Prescott, said: "While John Major complains that he has had a bellyful of problems inside his own party, he should realise the nation has had a bellyful of his government."

Among the 62 awards for political service is a rare Labour knighthood — for Ray Powell, the MP for Ogmore and the former pairing whip who last year stood down as the orga-



£10 BUYS A CHAIN CUTTER

He's chained up through his sensitive nose and made to walk on red hot plates, whilst the back of his legs are left in time to music. Onlookers taunt him and force him to drink beer. Why? Because they're teaching him to 'dance' for tourists who pay to watch his agonising waltz.

YES, I WANT TO CUT THE CHAINS!

Form for donating to the World Society for the Protection of Animals, including fields for name, address, and donation amount.

Britain

World News

Finance

Sport

Comment 14 Letters 16 Obituaries 20 Outlook Money 21 Radio, TV and Weather 2





# Talks fail to nail down deal for Bosnia elections

John Hooper in Florence

**A** FIRM commitment to holding elections in Bosnia eluded a final international conference last night which had been widely expected to set a date for polls.

At the end of the two-day meeting, the 46 countries and 15 international organisations present also failed to take any decision that would make possible the arrest of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, who has been indicted for war crimes.

A final statement said the Bosnian Serbs' representatives had been told clearly that the "continuation in public authority of Mr Karadzic was unacceptable" and that "he should remove himself from the political scene".

But the statement gave no indication of what would happen if Mr Karadzic held on to his position. As if to mock the impotence of the great powers, the Bosnian Serb prime minister, Gojko Kljickovic, suggested Mr Karadzic might be a candidate if the ballot went ahead, calling him "a democrat in his soul".

An arms control pact, which is crucial to the implementation of last year's Dayton peace agreement, did emerge from the meeting. But the deal - which sets limits to the levels of arms each side can have - should have been concluded last Tuesday at separate talks in Oslo. It was held up by a squabble.

The Dayton accords call for elections in Bosnia by September 14, but make the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) responsible for deciding if conditions are suitable. Clearly, many are not.

There are restrictions on the media and on freedom of movement and association. But the United States and its allies are determined to keep up the momentum generated at Dayton and the US president, Bill Clinton, facing an election in November, is keen to avoid any delay that might suggest failure.

The US was said by delegates in Florence to have applied considerable pressure on and through its European allies for a date to be set. But it was not enough to shift the current OSCE chairman, Flavio Cotti.

Mr Cotti told the conference he would consult the OSCE's permanent council on June 20 before travelling to Sarajevo for a final "inspection". He promised a decision before the end of the month.

The best the US could get was a recommendation in favour of elections from the OSCE's American head of mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Robert Frowick. Mr Frowick argued that the ballot should be held by September because the Nato-led peace implementation force would still be at maximum strength.

It is unlikely Mr Cotti will be able to reject Mr Frowick's advice, but there was no mistaking his unease. "We all want the elections to take place within the framework set out by the peace agreement," Mr Cotti said. "But we must also ask ourselves the question whether the international community is ready to carry out decisive measures."

He said it was "of paramount importance that the indicted war criminals be delivered to the Hague (war crimes tribunal)".

Testimony for the terrorised, page 17



Citizen Castro... Fidel Castro demands an end to economic blockades on Cuba in a speech to the United Nations Habitat II conference on human settlements in Istanbul. Cuba's leader criticised the developed world for showing little interest in the conference, which was due to end yesterday without a final declaration. PHOTOGRAPH BY BURHAN OZBILICI

# Mayor offers free transport to beat Paris air pollution

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

**P**UBLIC transport in French cities will be free on days when pollution reaches danger levels, under a proposal accepted by the National Assembly last night. With record high temperatures expected this weekend, the mayor of Paris, Jean Tiéber, said he would bring the measure into effect immediately.

The government, which initially opposed the measure on grounds of cost, has yet to decide what constitutes a dangerous pollution level. It is not clear how the measure will be financed, although one proposal is for a new levy on tobacco.

Environmental experts want the measure to be triggered when ozone readings reach 180 micrograms per cubic metre. Mr Tiéber said he was con-

sidering other measures, such as free parking on the outskirts of the capital during hot, still days when ozone accumulates.

Mr Tiéber's most popular measure since becoming mayor last May has been to ban traffic from several streets on Sundays.

# Russia to boost links with Nato

John Palmer in Brussels

**N**ATO and Russia are to forge closer political and military links in spite of differences over plans to accept countries in central Europe as new members of Nato.

Alliance defence ministers meeting in Brussels yesterday endorsed proposals from the Russian defence minister, Pavel Grachev, for intensive co-operation on issues including joint weapons development, arms control and measures to combat international terrorism and drug-trafficking.

Mr Grachev said after the meeting that Russia was willing to commit troops to any Nato peacekeeping operation in Bosnia when the mandate of the I-For mission runs out at the end of the year.

The former Soviet army general accepted an invitation to station senior Russian military officers permanently at the alliance's military headquarters in Belgium and agreed to have a Nato officer appointed to his military general staff in Moscow.

"We are ready to develop relations with a non-enlarged alliance in the interests of pan-European security," Mr Grachev told the defence ministers. In turn, they emphasised the "constructive and friendly atmosphere" of the meeting.

The message was: there are still differences on enlargement, but let's agree to differ. It is not going to stop other co-operation, a Nato source said.

The United States defence secretary, William Perry, said the decision to institutionalise Russia's links with Nato reflected the successful East-West partnership of the

I-For peace mission. Asked if closer co-operation with Russia had been made conditional on Nato abandoning its plans for enlargement, Mr Perry said: "No. No linkage."

Nato ministers appeared uncertain about whether Russia's call for closer co-operation marked a softening in opposition to enlargement.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said Mr Grachev had been "strongly unenthusiastic" about the plan.

Other Nato sources said Mr Grachev could hardly have abandoned Moscow's arguments against Nato expansion two days before Russia's presidential election on Sunday.

"I was struck by how low-key the whole discussion was. It may be that the Yeltsin team will gradually accept a limited Nato enlargement after the election, provided that there is no question of forward siting of foreign troops or nuclear weapons on the Russian frontier in the new member states," one source said.

Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary remain the most favoured candidates for admission when the issue is discussed at the end of the year. "When it comes to how Russia expresses its views about Nato enlargement, Moscow is holding out cards. There is no stick," a diplomat said.

Mr Grachev refused to comment on the issue of enlargement. "I have come to the conclusion there is the aspiration for deeper and closer contacts between us," he said. "On the basic idea we are one - that is co-operation, a Nato source said."

## The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

City	Today	Tomorrow
Algeria	20 17 F	21 18 F
Amsterdam	27 12 F	28 13 F
Antwerp	27 12 F	28 13 F
Berlin	25 10 F	26 11 F
Brussels	25 10 F	26 11 F
Copenhagen	21 10 F	22 11 F
Geneva	26 12 F	27 13 F
Lisbon	26 12 F	27 13 F
London	27 12 F	28 13 F
Madrid	27 12 F	28 13 F
Moscow	27 12 F	28 13 F
Paris	27 12 F	28 13 F
Rome	27 12 F	28 13 F
Sofia	27 12 F	28 13 F
Tripoli	27 12 F	28 13 F
Vienna	27 12 F	28 13 F

Around the world

City	Today	Tomorrow
Algeria	20 17 F	21 18 F
Amsterdam	27 12 F	28 13 F
Antwerp	27 12 F	28 13 F
Berlin	25 10 F	26 11 F
Brussels	25 10 F	26 11 F
Copenhagen	21 10 F	22 11 F
Geneva	26 12 F	27 13 F
Lisbon	26 12 F	27 13 F
London	27 12 F	28 13 F
Madrid	27 12 F	28 13 F
Moscow	27 12 F	28 13 F
Paris	27 12 F	28 13 F
Rome	27 12 F	28 13 F
Sofia	27 12 F	28 13 F
Tripoli	27 12 F	28 13 F
Vienna	27 12 F	28 13 F

**European weather outlook**

**Scandinavia:** Atlantic fronts will affect Norway bringing some fairly heavy cloud cover and periods of patchy light rain and drizzle. The damp weather will move eastwards as the day goes on to affect Sweden. During the day, but Finland and Denmark should see fine weather with good sunny spells. Max temp ranging from 21C in Copenhagen to 10C in north-west Norway.

**Spain, Germany, Austria:** A ridge of high pressure covers all areas so it will be a mainly dry day with patchy cloud and sun-lulls at times, although one Alpine area could have the odd thundery shower. It will be comfortably warm rather than hot with highs in the range 24-29C.

**Spain, and Portugal:** A fine summer's day with lots of blue sky and prolonged spells of hot sunshine. Max temp 28-36C inland, 26-30C on the coasts with refreshing sea-breezes.

**Italy:** One or two thundery showers are possible in the extreme south of Italy and also over the Alps and Apennines, but much of the country will be quite sunny and hot. Highs 25-29C.

**Mood places:** will be a little cooler and less humid than recent days, but it should be mostly dry with lots of sunshine and just isolated evening thundery showers.

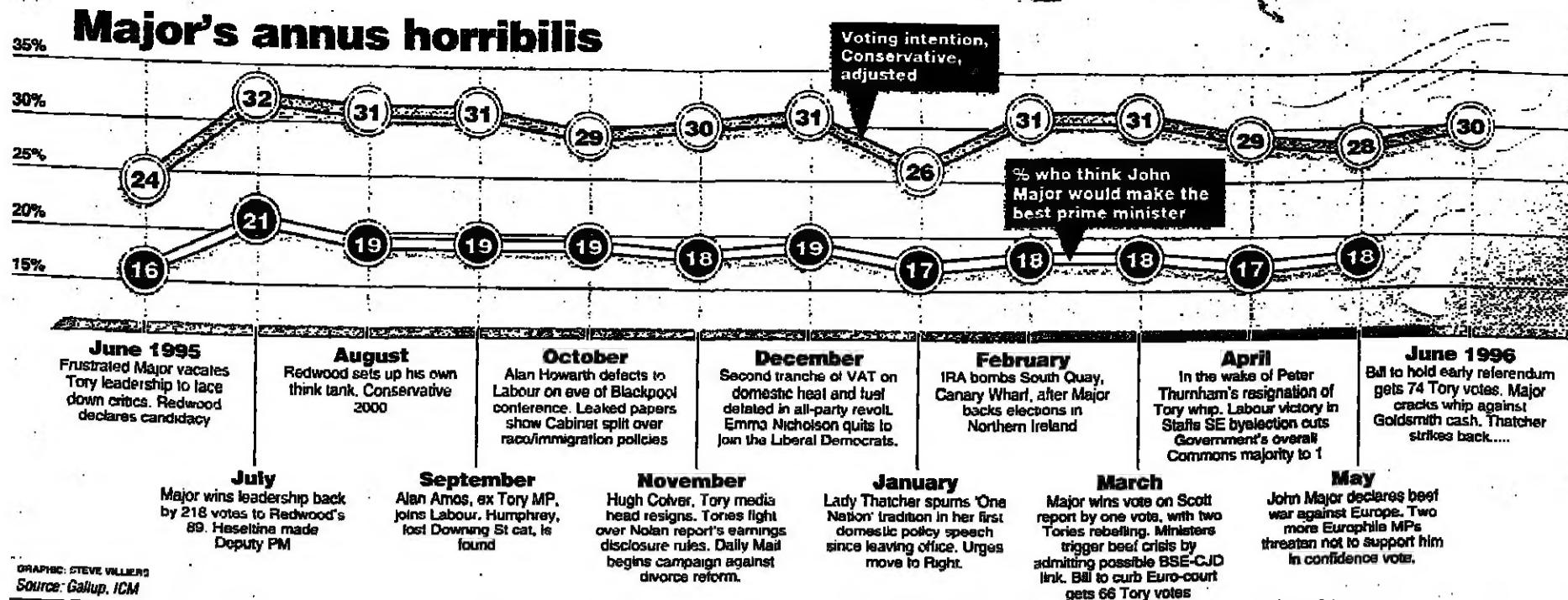
## Television and radio - Saturday

**BBC 1** 6.55pm News, Weather, 6.55pm Occasional, 6.55pm Robinson Crusoe, 8.15pm The Remains of the Day, 8.45pm News, 9.00pm Grand Hotel, 11.15pm News, 11.45pm The Colour, 1.17pm The Colour, 1.45pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00pm News, 12.30pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00pm News, 12.30pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 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'So let me say to the country and to the Conservative Party: there is no time for distractions. We need to go out there on to the doorsteps putting our case to the nation'

— John Major yesterday



'The Tory party likes balls... Redwood showed he'd got them. He'll be the candidate of the right, not Portillo, when the time comes. But he'll lose, of course'

— Thatcherite backbencher

# Major's year: Out of the blue, into the deep

A week, they say, is a long time in politics. For the Prime Minister, a year has proved an eternity. Michael White reviews the events since he defeated John Redwood

POOR John Major. Almost exactly a year after he saw off John Redwood's leadership challenge his premiership looks like Groundhog Day: the film in which Bill Murray plays a weatherman stuck in a time warp which brings him back to where he started the previous morning.

Malcolm Rifkind was given a chance to shine in Douglas Hurd's post, but only by doing the boss's bidding — triumphing to the Eurosceptical Right and offending his old friends. Stephen Dorrell embarked on a similar journey.

Jenkins of his party who delivers a sound economic legacy to the other side.

Gillian Shephard, briefly tipped as a potential leader, has been battered over education, not least from Mr Major's own policy unit. Even Michael Howard, riding high and order hard, currently looks a better bet.

The one Tory politician who has survived into the final year of the present Parliament in better shape than a year ago is the man Major beat: his erstwhile Welsh Secretary. Forty-five today, Mr Redwood behaves like a man who is having a good time. And so he is, scarcely off the airwaves, the public platform or the weekend rubber chicken circuit of Tory activists who usually find him less of a Vulcan than they feared.

letter to John Major resigning from the Cabinet in run for the recently-vacated party leadership.

"The Tory party likes balls," one Thatcherite backbencher said midweek. "Redwood showed he'd got them. He'll be the candidate of the Right, not Portillo, when the time comes. But he'll lose, of course" — not least because his very success has split the Right's vote, making more likely a centrist succession to

the Defence Secretary's natural allies, in the same way his SAS speech did at the Blackpool conference.

Plenty of rightwing Tories believe Mr Portillo is still their man of destiny and will bounce back. For the moment, last summer's intrigue remains damaging. Both sides of the story are not fully known. But the Redwoods say Peter Lilley, Mr Portillo and Mr Redwood all hovered on the brink in the days after Mr Major threw down the leadership gauntlet. Frantic telephone calls took place over the weekend before the challenge.

When the Welsh Secretary decided to make his move he made one final call to Mr Portillo, saying he was resigning, but that if Mr Portillo did too, he would stand aside and support his rival's then-stronger claims. "Michael said 'I can't,'" says an insider. Fair enough, except that three days later Portillo-backers were found to have installed extra phone lines in a nearby house, just in case the contest went to a second round. Neither brave, nor loyal, was the snap conclusion which has stuck.

Not for the first time Mr Major, the supreme tactician, thus survives because there is

no more widely acceptable alternative. Though Conservative Central Office is raising money and making plans for an October election, just in case, he probably has until May 1, 1997 to stave off election defeat.

Mr Major retains a few aces. As Messrs Clarke and Heseltine never tire of predicting, voters' rising disposable income may restore a little feignoodery. The Northern Ireland peace process

resentful Tory MPs than they feared. After all, they survived the humiliation of Lord Justice Scott's indictment of the shabby arms-to-Iraq policy without losing a single minister — though the coming reshuffle may tweak that verdict.

What last week illustrated was the danger which the supposedly unflappable Harold Macmillan highlighted when asked what kept him awake at night. "Events, dear boy, events."

Who could have predicted that a television studio row over Goldsmith gold going to the European Foundation would blow up so dramatically that Lady Thatcher would intervene?

And then there was the row over Edgware Hospital. When the Europhile Hugh Dykes and the quixotic Sir John Gorst (having defended the right not to join a union at Grunwick, he later backed the right to do so at GCHQ) twisted Mr Dorrell's arm for a proper casualty unit, they did their constituency duty.

Things only went wrong when they struck a deal and tried to withdraw the threatened non-co-operation story they thought they'd given to a local fresheet, not to the mighty Major-sceptic Daily

Telegraph, which printed it anyway. Blackmail, cried loyalists. Cowardice, cried the Opposition.

By such slips do falling governments fall into the abyss. But the week's turmoil inadvertently served to assist Mr Major's survival in a more important respect. It distracted attention from a looming compromise over beef.

There is every sign that Euro-moderate ministers, Mr Rifkind to the fore, want a

Redwood behaves like a man having a good time. And so he is. He has become famous — and likes it



Anyone less charismatic could be dismissed as an egotistical bag lady. Lady T remains the Great Blue Shark



Who could predict a row over Goldsmith would blow up so dramatically that Thatcher would intervene?



Michael Portillo's star has dipped. Even the row over his 'noisy' office party offended some natural allies



Only Kenneth Clarke held out against the trend, defying the Right on taxes and spending as well as on Europe, and defying the Bank of England on inflation. It may be heroic, but — for the moment — it looks like finally ruining his leadership hopes, the Roy

Major, a Rifkind, a Lang or even a Dorrell, designed to break the fragile Cabinet consensus over Europe. Officials started a row over lesbians and lottery money — an irresistible tabloid combination.

He seeks to synthesize global free market economics with traditional Toryism: a nation which can cope with the unavoidable challenge of Asia because it is rooted in a stable and secure society; post-Thatcherism whose goals, not means, are not so different from New Labour's.

Not every Tory agrees either that he will be the Right's candidate or that he will lose. Cabinet ministers are, unsurprisingly, grumbling about their ex-colleagues.

He's used the freedom he gained to make himself known. That's not very difficult," one said this week.

A former minister was more blunt. "Redwood? Yes, he's clever in a desiccated way and he's trying to make himself more human. He goes around grinning all the time. It reminds me of Malvolio."

Says another: "Let's face it, the Right have the infantry, but the Left still has the leaders. Neither Portillo or Redwood has quite got what it takes."



One year after beating off John Redwood, John Major faces another round of feuding

Two points are indisputable. One is that Mr Redwood has avoided unduly antagonising his party. It is unlikely, but not impossible, that Mr Major could yet invite him back, unlikely, but not impossible, that he would accept.

The contrast with Norman Lamont, blundering in all directions in search of an issue, is instructive. Mr Redwood quietly backed Bill Cash's bill, while Sir James Goldsmith did it noisily. Mr Lamont addressed Jonathan Aitken's source on the option of leaving the EU. Mr Redwood thought it wiser not to attend. Lady Thatcher and her Goldsmithite guru, Alan Walters, blundered into the Cash cash row. Mr Redwood lay low.

The other clear point is that Mr Portillo's star has dipped since Mr Redwood's challenge. Even last week's petty row over his "noisy" office party during the Beating of the Retreat offended some of



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For the charcoal that mellows our Tennessee Whiskey, we'll only burn hard maple taken from high ground. Anything else is too soft and would just go to ash. (Jack Bateman here is weeding out a stack of creek maple.) A new man in our rickyard must learn many skills before we bring him on. But first is knowing what wood makes the whiskey. And what wood makes the fire you sip the whiskey by.



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"People are simply tired of new reports every day about what's bad for you. We're going full-tilt into the next millennium, and after the power-tripping eighties, people want to relax with a good cigar or a four-course meal"



Outlook page 15



News in brief

Bra poster provokes record complaints

AN advertisement for a bra has attracted a record number of complaints since it appeared on billboards less than a month ago. One hundred people contacted the Advertising Standards Authority about the poster for Gossard Glossies, which features a model reclining in a haystack, wearing only a see-through black bra and pants.

Pilot 'saved spectators'

A PILOT who died after steering his plane away from spectators at an air show was praised yesterday. The Wiltshire coroner, David Masters, said Robin Bowes, aged 51, a display pilot, was obviously brave and skilful.

Charity to aid Sinai monastery

A CHARITY inspired by the Prince of Wales and dedicated to restoring a monastery built on the site where Moses received the Ten Commandments was launched yesterday. The St Catherine's Foundation — Prince Charles is its patron — will work towards the preservation of the Monastery of St Catherine on Mount Sinai.

Girl, 9, claims rape by boy

POLICE are investigating a claim by a girl aged 9 that she was raped by a boy of the same age. Specially-trained detectives are waiting to interview the girl after she told a relative that the incident happened on Thursday in Bolton, Greater Manchester.

Apology

THE shooting of a British soldier by an off-duty policeman in Cyprus, reported in News in Brief in early editions yesterday, happened in April. We apologise for the inadvertent repetition of this item.



Joanne O'Brien: 'I am not quitting now and going on to the Brownies — I want to stay with the cubs'

Girl cub legally allowed to stay in pack

Gary Younge on a child's victory

JOANNE O'BRIEN, from Chinnor in Oxfordshire, has always wanted to be a cub. Her father, who died of a heart attack last year, was a scout leader, and eight-year-old Joanne was keen to follow in his footsteps.

Leaders who head cub packs in Chinnor said they would resign — despite a ruling in 1991 that girls can be cubs provided there is a female leader with the pack.

"I am really enjoying myself here and I will not leave the pack. I don't want to leave my new friends."

Pledges ease millennium crisis

John Eazard

A CASH drought threatening the grandiose Millennium Exhibition planned for Greenwich eased last night as industry started to pour in promises of multi-million pound support.

million, to be built on the south-east London site. Yesterday British Airways gave the scheme a boost by pledging \$6million. This follows a £12 million package promised earlier in the week by the City of London Corporation.

project stressed their optimism yesterday, there were signs that next week could still be tense.

Driver jailed for road rage

A LIMOUSINE chauffeur who throttled a moped rider until he was unconscious in a road rage attack was jailed for nine months yesterday at Southwark crown court in London.

European invasion: thousands of painted ladies arrive from continent

BRITAIN'S eventual relationship with Europe has taken a further unexpected step, with the arrival of thousands of painted ladies from the Continent.



strong winds from northern Europe. The insect, a seasonal migrant from Europe, is normally seen later in summer and further south than Wheelabrake Ings, near York, where 3,000 swarmed this week.

Earl's dope growing farm manager gets four years

EARL WALDEGRAVE'S former farm manager was yesterday jailed for four years for growing 900 cannabis plants at his employer's estate.

MPs and pop stars attack 'intolerant' students' union president

THE leadership of the National Union of Students has come under severe criticism from politicians and pop stars over its attempts effectively to silence those who support free education.

you are suspended from the National Executive Committee.

date in the next election for the winnable seat of Eastwood, Scotland.

Advertisement for 'On The Ball' featuring Franz Beckenbauer. Text includes 'Europe's greatest post-war footballer', 'begins his column on Euro 96', and 'tomorrow in the Observer'.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. It features a portrait of a man and the text 'Scho' and 'T'.



Opinion 1:50



'Once these boys have been thrown out of school they have whole days to fill and nothing to do with themselves. They get involved in petty crime and local gangs, and end up in trouble with the police'

Trevor Phillips chairman of Runnymede Trust



A car torched by rioters during last December's clashes in Brixton, which led to 22 arrests. The disturbances followed the death of Wayne Douglas in police custody

PHOTOGRAPH TOM JEWKINS

# Schools exclusion of blacks 'caused Brixton riot'

Think-tank finds education conflict behind last year's clashes, reports Gary Younge

THE high number of young blacks being excluded from school was one of the prime causes of last year's riot in Brixton, according to the chairman of one of the country's leading race-relations think tanks. "One of the driving forces that led to the disturbances

trust, due to come out next week which has been obtained by the Guardian, one third of the 15 to 23-year-olds from Brixton, chosen for interview by random selection, had been permanently excluded from school. In the wake of the riot in December, 23 people were arrested on theft, burglary, public order and criminal damages following almost six hours of fighting, missile throwing and looting. The rioting was sparked by the

death of 26-year-old Wayne Douglas in police custody but those involved in the study believe exclusion from school remains one of the most important underlying factors in the alienation young black men feel in Brixton. The study, entitled "This is where I live: stories and pressures in Brixton," contains first person accounts by young black men in Brixton. It targets education, policing, a lack of role models and unemployment as key problems.

"Once you mention Brixton to somebody they automatically think, bad boys, the robberies, the theft and all that sort of thing. I feel pretty cheesed off about it because this is where I live," said one man interviewed in the report. Afro-Caribbean boys in the area are three times as likely to be excluded from school as whites, according to Lambeth education department. They are also twice as likely as other boys to leave

school unemployed, leaving about half of all Afro-Caribbean men under the age of 25 in the area on the dole. Afro-Caribbean girls, however, perform as well as white girls and better than white boys. "Once these boys have been thrown out of school they have whole days to fill and nothing to do with themselves," Mr Phillips said. "They get involved in petty crime and with local gangs, and end up in trouble with the police. It makes so much of the debate about curfews irrelevant because so much of what is going on in Brixton goes on during the day when these people should be at school."

## Danny

I GOT one of the highest marks in the 11-plus and my mum sent me to a school in another area which had a good reputation. There were a lot of old white people around, and I could be walking past with two of my friends and they'd be clutching their bags and crossing the street, expecting us to attack them. Most teachers were good. They helped you out if you needed it and you could stay behind and talk to them. A week before we were supposed to go on work experience, a friend of mine brought an air gun to school that fired toy pellets and was messing about

with it in the playground. When I came back from work experience the head of year asked me if I'd shot someone. I told him that I hadn't and the boy who owned the gun told him what had happened, but I was still expelled. I was out of school from March until September, not doing anything, just staying at home and trying to find another school. I wanted to do re-takes but ended up wasting a whole year. Now I'm doing four GCSE's at college and am on course to pass them all. I want to do something in the arts, probably graphic design - there's a lot of money in that. I would have been in my second year of A-levels now. The expulsion messed everything up.

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12 months free insurance	✓	X	X
3 year phone warranty	✓	X	X
free switching between tariffs	✓	X	X
24 hour phone replacement	✓	X	X
Caller id	✓	X	X

## Lying to police 'no bar to holding gun licence'

Friend Clouston

LYING to the police should not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a gun licence. Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dumblane massacre was told yesterday. The senior officer who ignored a colleague's condemnation of Thomas Hamilton's personality claimed that the critical assessment was irrelevant to Hamilton's right to possess a firearms certificate. Douglas McMurdo, the former deputy chief constable of Central Scotland police force, was giving evidence on the 13th day of the inquiry into Hamilton's massacre of 16 schoolchildren and their teacher on March 13. The inquiry has already heard how the head of Central Scotland's child protection

unit had warned Mr McMurdo, in charge of issuing gun licences, that Hamilton was a "scheming, devious and deceitful" individual. Giving evidence for the second day, Mr McMurdo, now assistant chief inspector of constabulary for Scotland, told Lord Cullen that a licence applicant could be "scheming, devious and deceitful in certain circumstances where it would have no bearing on whether he could be entrusted with a firearm". No action was taken against Hamilton on the grounds that he had never been charged with any offence, despite the fact that firearms legislation stipulates that gun licences should be refused to applicants of "intemperate habits or unsound mind".

Senior crown counsel Ian Bonomy has excused missing teenager Vicky Hagger, aged 13, from testifying before the Stirling-based inquiry. She had been due to give evidence about the time she spent with her mother at one of Hamilton's summer camps, but disappeared from her Aberdeen home at the weekend. She was found yesterday in Aberdeen and reunited with her mother. William Garnett, aged 36, brother of the Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley, yesterday won back his shotgun licence in an appeal at Knightsbridge crown court. The Metropolitan Police had revoked his licence after burglars stole the gun from his holiday home on the Isle of Wight. He had admitted keeping the weapon in an unsafe place and was fined £100.

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All sides are looking ahead to deals to be made in the second round if no candidate wins a clear victory tomorrow

# Boris Yeltsin's fateful power-play

On the eve of post-Soviet Russia's first democratic elections for a head of state, Boris Yeltsin declared at a final rally that he was prepared to change his government 'very seriously' if he wins tomorrow's elections.

It was the last throw of the dice in a violent and unfair campaign. DAVID HEARST (below) and JAMES MEEK (left) report on the scenarios and the characters in a contest that could take Russia to the brink of political confrontation

**B**ORIS YELTSIN would rather play with his nine-month-old grandson than rule Russia, but duty calls. He really has to save Russia from the Reds. These are the latest sentiments expressed by the former communist local party boss, who knows that a ruler's power is absolute and rarely surrendered voluntarily. Asked whether he was prepared to lose tomorrow's elections, the president replied: "No, I'm not prepared... Half a year ago I was ready to step down. Now that I have already entered the fight, I'm not ready."

A former close colleague from Mr Yeltsin's democratic days said of him: "He has a face distorted by will." Much has been written about the president's slick multi-media campaign, but in the end personal qualities, such as his tenacity in the face of adversity, have counted for as much. In an election where too many people have too much to lose, it must be assumed that Mr Yeltsin will use any means, fair or foul, to stay in power.

He would prefer a clean win. Even the most optimistic pollsters deny him that, but he has said he will win the requisite 50 per cent plus one vote and has forbidden his campaign teams to work on a second-round strategy. Many Yeltsin supporters in Moscow and St Petersburg will spend Sunday at their dachas. Then there is Russia versus Germany, a Euro 96 football match with live coverage starting just as they get home. Will they then go to the polls after a defeat at the hands of the Germans? This democracy thing is complicated in Russia. The most likely outcome is

a close result between Mr Yeltsin and Gennadiy Zyuganov, the main challenger and leader of the Communist Party.

In this case the third man will occupy the pivotal position, amid talk of backroom deals and offers of government posts.

The best third-runner for Mr Yeltsin would be Alexander Lebed, the former commander of the 14th Army in Transdniestr. This bitter critic of the military campaign in Chechnya commands loyalty. Swearing women once lay down on the runway of Tiraspol airport to stop their hero from leaving.

In reality, the tough career general is cannon fodder in Mr Yeltsin's experienced hands. Three possible government posts have been dangled before him — defence minister, secretary of the National Security Council, and vice-prime minister in charge of law enforcement ministries.

Gen Lebed's disciplined electorate comprises soldiers and moderate nationalists disillusioned with the antics of the extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. It is more anti-communist than anti-Yeltsin.

The other two candidates for third place — Mr Zhirinovskiy and the liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky — are both awkward customers.

The acerbic Mr Yavlinsky has not stopped abusing the president and the "doubtful people" who advise him. "Don't speak to me any more about the good tsar and the bad boyars (aristocrats). Boris Yeltsin himself invited them to work with him and he is responsible for what they do." In spite of Mr Yavlinsky's image as a squeaky clean democrat, his ability to compromise is in some doubt. When he arrived at the Krem-



Historic day... Soldiers in Orekhovo-Zuyevo, near Moscow, move a ballot box into position yesterday, in preparation for tomorrow's election

lin for talks with Mr Yeltsin on a possible deal, his opening gambit was to slam down a list of four ministers whose dismissal he was demanding. His electorate are intellectuals, fed by conspiracy theories in the liberal press. Their minds are made up, and many would rather not vote than choose between two evils. They are the least disciplined voters and Mr Yavlinsky has little power to tell them whom to back.

The worst third man for Mr Yeltsin would be Mr Zhirinovskiy, who has, ominously, been preparing for the role of honest broker. Whatever vibes his blue Euro-umbrella is intended to convey, his heardand is an angry, lumpen, radical nationalist one. His supporters are small businessmen excluded from the democrats' share-out of the goodies, who now want a piece of the action. Their natural allies are the nationalists of Mr Zyuganov's National Patriotic Forces. Mr Yeltsin would have two

main choices after a first-round result which left him uncomfortably close to Mr Zyuganov.

The first — the constitutional way of staying in power — consists of offering Mr Lebed a place in his government and trying to bring on board Mr Yavlinsky's supporters. This could be achieved by offering Mr Yavlinsky some of the resignations he has demanded. The aim would be to build an anti-communist alliance capable of limiting Mr Zyuganov to his core support of 20 million-25 million votes.

The second scenario is to use the unlimited executive powers of the presidency to call a temporary halt to the electoral process.

There is no shortage of crises that Mr Yeltsin could press into service. The peace agreement with Chechen rebels is unravelling. More bombs could go off in Moscow. Either could tempt Mr Yeltsin to declare a state of emergency. This risky strat-

egy would spark unrest in communist regions, such as Kamorovo, which would be difficult to suppress forcibly.

Mr Yeltsin could mitigate protests by opening negotiations with Mr Zyuganov to form a broad coalition government, with an agreement to change the constitution to allow Mr Yeltsin to remain president for two years, pending new elections.

Another way of postponing the second round would be for Mr Yeltsin to allege grave incidents of falsification during

the vote count. This could entail either local recounts, or a declaration that the whole election has been invalid, and the dismissal of the central election commission.

Alternatively, Mr Yeltsin could make use of his own weak health. If negotiations became too tough, it could be announced that the strain of campaigning was too much for the 65-year-old, who has already suffered two heart attacks. In this case, the executive powers of the president

would pass to the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who has remained remarkably silent during the president's campaign.

New elections would have to be held in three months' time, but then all bets would be off.

Mr Zyuganov's freedom of action is more limited after the first round. A strong result for him would be 25-30 million votes — 25-28 per cent of the electorate. This would leave him needing only 5 million more votes in the

A former close colleague from Mr Yeltsin's democratic days said of him: 'He has a face distorted by will.'

In an election where too many people have too much to lose, it must be assumed that Yeltsin will use any means, fair or foul, to stay in power.

second round for a victory. If Mr Zhirinovskiy gets less than 25 per cent in the first round, the performance of the also-rans will become important — people such as Svyatoslav Fyodorov, a millionaire eye surgeon, and Yuri Vlasov, a weightlifter. Mr Yeltsin's advisers are preparing for all eventualities. So far they have shown no lack of ingenuity in keeping their man in power.

Leader comments David's horns, Outlook, page 14

## I R E L A N D



For a glorious Irish motoring holiday from £104, step on it.

**GO AS YOU PLEASE HOLIDAY**  
Returns Rights to Dublin, seven nights B&B in a Town & Country Home or Farmhouse. 7 days self-drive car-hire.  
Based on two people travelling together and sharing accommodation. Includes taxes. Valid until August 31st 1996.

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The Irish Tourist Boards, North and South, have got together to open up a world of possibilities on the Emerald Isle.

Bring your car — or hire one here — and you and your family have any number of options to explore, from top to bottom and east to west. Our ancient culture and historical sites; our sports and traditional pastimes; our breathtaking countryside and world famous hospitality.

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**Ireland Holidays '96**  
The best of Ireland from top to bottom

**The Guardian Offer**  
Start with some melted lard, drop on some chocolate and...

**Half price dry cleaning at Sketchley**

The voucher below gets you half way towards half price dry cleaning using Sketchley's Golden Service.

All you need now is one more token. Tokens will appear in tomorrow's Observer, and in the Guardian on Monday to Friday next week.

Golden Service will leave your clothes in first class condition. It includes hand finishing and pressing, sewing up loose buttons and hems and lubricating zips. And your garments are returned in a smart suit cover with a Golden Service Hanger.

Thanks to this offer you can try this exceptional service for less than the price of Sketchley's Standard Service.

So cut out the voucher and take it into Sketchley, together with a second token from either the Guardian or Observer.

You can find the location of your nearest Sketchley by ringing 0800 393837 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm).

**How to claim**  
1 The voucher must be presented on deposit of garments. It is NOT valid on collection.  
2 Only one claim may be made per household.  
3 Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, discount card or voucher. Offer is subject to availability. Cannot be redeemed for cash.  
4 Offer is limited to Sketchley's Golden Service and a maximum of four garments (a suit = two garments). Offer excludes: starchy linings, silk or wet garments, all wet, pleated skirts and same day cleaning.  
5 Offer valid from 15/06/96 to 15/07/96.

Please present this coupon, with another token affixed, when you deposit your garments at any Sketchley branch for Golden Service Cleaning.

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

How many times a week do you normally buy the Guardian?  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  26  27  28  29  30  31  32  33  34  35  36  37  38  39  40  41  42  43  44  45  46  47  48  49  50  51  52  53  54  55  56  57  58  59  60  61  62  63  64  65  66  67  68  69  70  71  72  73  74  75  76  77  78  79  80  81  82  83  84  85  86  87  88  89  90  91  92  93  94  95  96  97  98  99  100  101  102  103  104  105  106  107  108  109  110  111  112  113  114  115  116  117  118  119  120  121  122  123  124  125  126  127  128  129  130  131  132  133  134  135  136  137  138  139  140  141  142  143  144  145  146  147  148  149  150  151  152  153  154  155  156  157  158  159  160  161  162  163  164  165  166  167  168  169  170  171  172  173  174  175  176  177  178  179  180  181  182  183  184  185  186  187  188  189  190  191  192  193  194  195  196  197  198  199  200  201  202  203  204  205  206  207  208  209  210  211  212  213  214  215  216  217  218  219  220  221  222  223  224  225  226  227  228  229  230  231  232  233  234  235  236  237  238  239  240  241  242  243  244  245  246  247  248  249  250  251  252  253  254  255  256  257  258  259  260  261  262  263  264  265  266  267  268  269  270  271  272  273  274  275  276  277  278  279  280  281  282  283  284  285  286  287  288  289  290  291  292  293  294  295  296  297  298  299  300  301  302  303  304  305  306  307  308  309  310  311  312  313  314  315  316  317  318  319  320  321  322  323  324  325  326  327  328  329  330  331  332  333  334  335  336  337  338  339  340  341  342  343  344  345  346  347  348  349  350  351  352  353  354  355  356  357  358  359  360  361  362  363  364  365  366  367  368  369  370  371  372  373  374  375  376  377  378  379  380  381  382  383  384  385  386  387  388  389  390  391  392  393  394  395  396  397  398  399  400  401  402  403  404  405  406  407  408  409  410  411  412  413  414  415  416  417  418  419  420  421  422  423  424  425  426  427  428  429  430  431  432  433  434  435  436  437  438  439  440  441  442  443  444  445  446  447  448  449  450  451  452  453  454  455  456  457  458  459  460  461  462  463  464  465  466  467  468  469  470  471  472  473  474  475  476  477  478  479  480  481  482  483  484  485  486  487  488  489  490  491  492  493  494  495  496  497  498  499  500  501  502  503  504  505  506  507  508  509  510  511  512  513  514  515  516  517  518  519  520  521  522  523  524  525  526  527  528  529  530  531  532  533  534  535  536  537  538  539  540  541  542  543  544  545  546  547  548  549  550  551  552  553  554  555  556  557  558  559  560  561  562  563  564  565  566  567  568  569  570  571  572  573  574  575  576  577  578  579  580  581  582  583  584  585  586  587  588  589  590  591  592  593  594  595  596  597  598  599  600  601  602  603  604  605  606  607  608  609  610  611  612  613  614  615  616  617  618  619  620  621  622  623  624  625  626  627  628  629  630  631  632  633  634  635  636  637  638  639  640  641  642  643  644  645  646  647  648  649  650  651  652  653  654  655  656  657  658  659  660  661  662  663  664  665  666  667  668  669  670  671  672  673  674  675  676  677  678  679  680  681  682  683  684  685  686  687  688  689  690  691  692  693  694  695  696  697  698  699  700  701  702  703  704  705  706  707  708  709  710  711  712  713  714  715  716  717  718  719  720  721  722  723  724  725  726  727  728  729  730  731  732  733  734  735  736  737  738  739  740  741  742  743  744  745  746  747  748  749  750  751  752  753  754  755  756  757  758  759  760  761  762  763  764  765  766  767  768  769  770  771  772  773  774  775  776  777  778  779  780  781  782  783  784  785  786  787  788  789  790  791  792  793  794  795  796  797  798  799  800  801  802  803  804  805  806  807  808  809  810  811  812  813  814  815  816  817  818  819  820  821  8



Bath

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status. Includes 2.00 Pm A Hat Man, 2.30 Dayville, 3.00 Castle Secret.

Going Good to firm. A Donkey Millers. Down Low best up to Ten.

2.00 JUNE SELLING HANDICAP (14) M 40yds 25,988. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

2.30 PUMP FORM CONDITIONS STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

3.05 AMBURY HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

3.35 CHARLOTTE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

4.05 BARKFORD HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

4.40 GIVE WINDMILL A BIRD LIMITED STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

5.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

5.40 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

6.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

6.40 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

7.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

7.40 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

8.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

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9.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

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11.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

11.40 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

12.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

12.40 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

13.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

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14.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

14.40 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

15.10 TETRUM HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

Racing

Jarvis reacts before handicapper strikes

After Achilles heel duly obliged like the handicap "snip" he was at York yesterday...

Since the weights for this handicap were published, React has run the race of her life to finish a close third...

Jarvis has a good line to current sprint form with the unbeaten Farhana in his care...

Frankie Dettori faces several months out of action, stretching well beyond next week's Royal Ascot...

Berkshire Hospital today. His injury has given the Godolphin set-up a major headache...

Long lay-off for Dettori after op. Frankie Dettori faces several months out of action...

Market Rasen (N.H.) 2.10 Tote Board. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

2.10 Tote Board. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

2.10 Tote Board. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

2.10 Tote Board. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

2.10 Tote Board. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

2.10 Tote Board. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

York with TV form

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status. Includes 1.45 Ogd, 2.15 Sandown, 2.45 Rye.

Going Good. A Donkey Millers. Down Low numbers best up to 10.

1.45 MICHAEL SOMMEL SILVER TANNERS HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

2.15 DANIEL ROYAL YOKESBURY RATED HANDICAP SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

2.45 WILLIAM HILL TROPHY HANDICAP SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

3.15 LEONARD BAKER BEEF STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

3.45 GARDIAN SILVER SILVER HANDICAP 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

4.15 JACOB HARRIS AND JURY REED MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

4.45 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

5.15 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

5.45 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

6.15 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

6.45 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

7.15 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

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13.45 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

14.15 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

14.45 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

15.15 SANDOWN RACE. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Odds.

Leicester tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status. Includes 6.45 Hanger Creeping, 7.15 Hanger Creeping.

Going Good to firm. A Donkey Millers. Down Low numbers best up to 10.

6.45 SPORTING NEWS HANDICAP SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

7.15 TESTERS TABLE MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

7.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

8.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

8.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

9.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

9.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

10.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

10.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

11.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

11.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

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13.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

13.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

14.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

14.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

15.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

15.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

16.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

16.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

17.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

17.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

18.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

18.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

19.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

19.45 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

20.15 LEICESTER MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES SYD 1m 25,173. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time/Status.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner. Includes 2.00 (7/1), 2.00 (7/1), 2.00 (7/1).

Going Good to firm. A Donkey Millers. Down Low numbers best up to 10.

2.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

2.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

3.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

3.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

4.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

4.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

5.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

5.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

6.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

6.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

7.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

7.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

8.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

8.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

9.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

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10.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

10.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

11.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

11.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

12.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

12.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

13.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

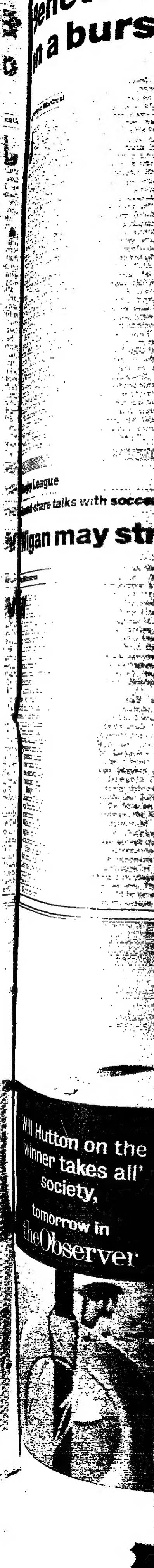
13.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

14.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

14.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

15.00 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.

15.30 (7/1) MONTICONE, Dr M Monticone. Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner.





Motor Racing

Benetton on a burst

Alan Henry in Montreal

JEAN Alesi and Gerhard Berger yesterday complicated an already complex Formula One equation by posting first and second fastest times for Benetton in the closing moments of the first free practice session for tomorrow's Canadian Grand Prix.

Alesi, who scored his first — and so far only — grand prix victory here at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in a Ferrari last year, lapped less than 0.10sec faster than his team-mate Berger and then spun off after taking the checkered flag.

Michael Schumacher's Ferrari F310 was third fastest and again he raised the stakes in his battle with Damon Hill, who posted the day's fourth fastest time.

Ferrari's recent re-emergence is no flash in the pan and Hill, whose championship lead now down to 17 points after poor performances in Monaco and Spain, is a little disquieted. His car's handling, he felt, was "quite good" but he was concerned at Schumacher's extra power.

Schumacher came to Canada after another intensive test session at Imola last week, his Ferrari now sporting an aerodynamically fashionable raised nose section. Benetton has also been making aerodynamic improvements although they benefited from a late switch to new tyres, eating into the stock available for the race.

Eddie Irvine also displayed excellent form in the second round of the Jordan-Peugeot of Martin Brundle which suffered an engine failure early in the session. A succession of poor performances have left a question-mark over Brundle's future but his performance yesterday was a significant boost for him at the start of a weekend on which he celebrates his 150th grand prix start.

Canadian fans have been flocking into Montreal optimistic that Hill's team-mate Jacques Villeneuve can repeat the home victory achieved in 1978 by his late father Gilles, after whom this circuit is of course named.

"I think I went fine for my first session on the track in a famous father after posting eighth place in the second Williams-Renault.

"I'm looking forward to the race because this circuit has a good combination of long straights and tight corners, which require heavy braking so there is every possibility to overtake."

Both clubs, in partnership with the local council, have agreed in principle to build a stadium at the town's Robin Park complex.

Although a £1 million stand has been built at Central Park, massive sums would be needed to upgrade the rest of an outdated stadium.

It'll now be the club's chairman Jack Robinson who has appeared unopposed to ground sharing with the soccer club, but the cost of refurbishment seems to have brought a change of heart.

Roger Stott, the local Labour MP, has played a part in bringing together the two chairmen, Robinson and Dave Whelan, and they have now agreed to an independent evaluation of the project.

"There are many difficulties ahead," said Stott, "but at least the three partners have jointly put their foot on the first rung of the ladder." Wigan, meanwhile, will attempt to correct their faltering assault on the Super League tomorrow by beating Oldham at Central Park, where they dropped a point for the first time since February 1994 against London Broncos last Sunday.

St Helens, who look certain to preserve their three-point lead at the top against the bottom club Workington Town at Knowsley Road, may have their captain Bobbie Goulding back.

The scrum-half, who has missed two matches with a cracked collar-bone, needs only six more goals to record the quickest century of goals.

St Helens have protested at the Rugby League's decision to order the release of their South Seas players for next month's Oceania Cup, an eight-nation tournament which starts on July 3 and ends with the final on July 17.

David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, said: "We are asking the league for a rethink. We accept that international competition is the flagship for expansion but we are very unhappy at the timing; it should be played at the end of the season. The Super League should be protected in this inaugural season."

Golf

Norman flies with an eagle

David Davies in Detroit

REG Norman, desperate to make a name for his Masters collapse, came within a stroke of the course record at Oakland Hills yesterday in the second round of the US Open. The Australian held his second shot at the 403-yard 16th for an eagle on his way to a 66, and a one-under-par total of 130, to beat the overnight leaders, Payne Stewart and Woody Austin.

Norman, looking tired and drawn because of an allergy condition, nevertheless played superbly to exceed his overnight target of getting to one over par for the championship. "My whole outlook was to get to around par. I knew if I could do that I'd be in good shape for the week-

end," he said. "Now I'm in even better shape." Inevitably after his round there were questions about Augusta, where he collapsed to a 78, handing a green jacket to Nick Faldo. He said: "You just have to get back on your horse. You have to be resilient, and I guess we are because we love the game so much."

Norman also survived a "snap-attack" at the short 9th. A photographer caught him during his swing and Norman pulled the ball some 60 feet left of the pin. He confronted the man, who admitted that he had never been on a golf course before and did not know the conventions and etiquette of on-course photography. Faced by a furious Norman, the man said: "Look, I'm leaving. I don't know what I'm doing out here," and the Australian replied: "I think that's a very good idea."

The second day of the championship was much like the first, calm and sunny, but still dreadfully wet underfoot after the deluge on Wednesday. The greens were still holding, but that advantage was cancelled out by the fact that so were the fairways, meaning no roll at all and the necessity to play longer irons into the greens.

Norman started the day at three over and an early indication of his form came at the long 2nd, 523 yards, where he reached the green with a drive and three-wood, to two-putt for a birdie. He dropped a shot at the 5th, where he missed the green, but picked it back up at the 8th, an uphill drive of a hole, quarter-of-a-mile long, where he hit a four-iron second and holed from 18 feet.

He birdied the short 13th with a six-iron to nine feet to get close to his original target, but he set the round alight at the 16th. An enormous drive gave him an 184yd eight-iron shot, he hit it straight over the flag, landing it 1-1/4 yards and spinning it back straight into the cup. "For the first time this week," said Norman afterwards, "I actually visualised a shot. I saw that one. I felt it, I knew where to land it. I've been finding myself with a lot of shots that are either a hard six-iron, say, or a little five-iron. The result of that has been that I've been giving myself a lot of 30-40ft putts and you don't hole many of those, especially on these greens."

Both Faldo and Colin Montgomerie, the leading European hopes, were out late but the latter dropped a shot at the long 2nd before almost holing his tee shot at the 194yd 3rd. The ball pitched short of the hole and ran right up to its rim before stopping a fraction short. The birdie restored the

Scot to his overnight position of level par. Faldo, at the same hole, dropped a shot but then flew a magnificent second past a guarding tree and over a bunker, stopping the ball on a downslope at the 5th. The 3rd birdie putt was a deserved reward, getting him back to two over par.

Anders Forsbrand, despite an untidy long game that is not best suited to US Open conditions, recorded scores of 74, 71 to be certain of making the cut, while less surprisingly David Gifford was also making an impact. He opened up with two birdies, but a wayward drive at the 5th and a bunkered second at the 6th got him back to par. But three birdies, to set against two bogeys on the back nine gave him an inward half of 34, for a 69 to be on 143, three over for the championship.

Bernhard Langer is still in pain with the shoulder he injured playing volleyball in Florida in March, and while he insists that it does not affect his swing, he would not be human if he were not wary of the effect the rough this week might have on it were he to take a full swing.

Rounds of 75, 78 would have given the German the weekend off, but he was in any case disqualified for signing for a four at the short 17th instead of a five. Mark James and Barry Lane were also for the early flight home. James was 14 over for his two rounds, 75, 79 and Lane, 75, 78, was only three better.

Paul Bales will also go unrewarded for his enterprise in making a special trip to pre-qualify. An opening nine gave him an inward half of 34, for a 69 to be on 143, three over for the championship.

Rugby League

Ground-share talks with soccer club Wigan may stray

Paul Fitzpatrick

WIGAN have taken the first steps towards a ground-sharing deal with their soccer neighbours Wigan Athletic. An idea they have resisted in the past.

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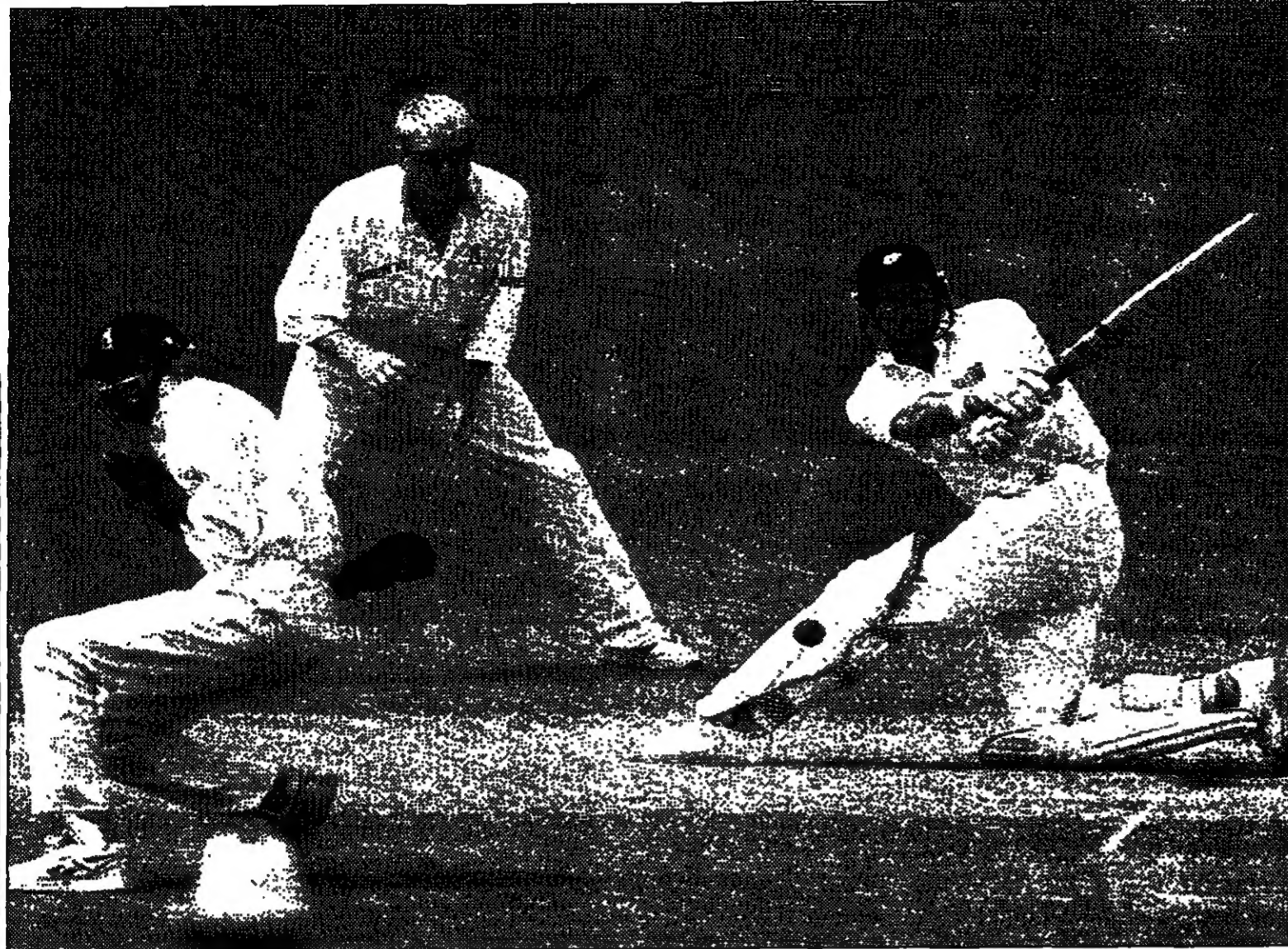


Yorkshire v Warwickshire

Moxon joins an elite club

David Hopps

ENGLAND might dismiss Martyn Moxon these days as a man with brandy-snap fingers, but when his fitness is not an issue he is not a man to be trifled with. There is still no more steadfast batsman in the country, and Warwickshire experienced such qualities in abundance yesterday as his second century of the summer ground Yorkshire into a position of authority. Moxon has endured enough heartache during his Yorkshire career to forgo the prospect of a championship. As captain his most painstaking innings often averted disaster. Nowadays, content in the role of senior professional, all-round good egg and ego soother, he has the luxury of contributing to a mood of optimism.



Sweeping for victory... Martyn Moxon despatches Smith's bowling to the Headingley boundary on his way to 131 yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Hick and Athey among current players. By the time he was dismissed deep into the final session, hooking Brown to fine-leg, the applause had a wearier feel. Further investigation revealed the catcher daily sprinting around the fine leg boundary to be Moxon, who was peeved recently to be compared to a coal barge, especially as his inability to win membership of the Silk Fielders club is a prime reason why he is

persistently overlooked as an England opener. An excellent sprawling catch was proof that coal power is not yet obsolete. Yorkshire's only awkward moments came as they lost their first two wickets for 58. Pollock, refused an appeal for a catch at the wicket against Vaughan, responding by bowling him next ball. Bevan and McGrath, safe and mature, steadied matters as they shared with

Moxon successive century stands. Warwickshire's spinners bore a heavy load, with Smith's off-spin and Giles's slow left-arm contributing 70 overs for 187. Giles had the prolific Bevan caught at the wicket with the arm ball, and he almost dismissed Moxon sweeping when he was 128, but to date there have been few signs of the turn that might ultimately bring Yorkshire victory to strengthen their

bold on the leadership. Warren Hegg and Ian Austin put on 175 in 31 overs in their seventh-wicket stand to give Lancashire a lead of 476 over Durham at Chester-le-Street yesterday. Both fell in the last four overs and Lancashire finished on 395 for eight in their second innings. The pair came together at 213 for six just before tea and Durham's seam attack wilted under the onslaught.

The home side also became increasingly ragged in the field as five catches went down. Hegg hit 89 off 113 balls with 12 fours and a six before lobbing an attempted pull to mid-on. Lugsden bowled with pace on his return to the Durham team after 18 months of injury problems. He included Mike Atherton, lbw for 37, among his three victims but bowled 12 wickets.

Selectors may change the bowling

Mike Selvey

THIS weekend the England selectors face the conundrum of whether victory is proof positive that the side they chose is in fact the best side. Although there were key moments during the first Test at Edgbaston when the balance was very much in the balance, an eight-wicket win is comprehensive in anyone's book. The simplistic view would be that there is every reason to keep faith with the same players, fitness permitting, for the second Test which begins at Lord's next Thursday. But there were aspects within the overall team performance which certainly should merit discussion. Hindsight, for example, suggests that on that particular pitch the job would have been made easier with a fourth seamer rather than a spinner and, that being so, Peter Martin and John Crawley should have played at the expense of Min Patel and Ronnie Irani. The XI that won, in other words, was actually not the best XI. Furthermore, the contribution of Alan Mullally ought to be chewed over. Five wickets on a debut is not to be sneezed at. But Mullally, as a left-arm pace bowler, was brought into the side to lend variety, and there was no evidence of the inswing to the right-hand batsman that ought to be fundamental to the left-armed armory. Instead Mullally went wide of the crease and fell away early in his delivery — both actions indicative of a subconscious desire to avoid following through on to the pitch — and slanted the ball across the batsman. Of his wickets, only that of

Azharuddin, who was bowled behind his legs, was a direct result of the bowler being a left-armed. In other words, variety has to be there for a purpose and not just for the sake of it. With a question-mark hanging over only the condition of Nick Knight's damaged finger and Crawley's pulled hamstring, there is likely to be scant discussion besides. The attack will have been deemed adequate, with little opportunity for Patel, Illingworth and his men, though should not be blind to the claims of Simon Brown, or even a resurgent Darren Gough; a left-armed is useful but not crucial. Irani's role, too, ought to have consideration. His forthright innings was spoken on at the time but one wonders whether he could play differently if circumstances warranted it. His bowling is ordinary. Although Crawley's injury will keep him out of consideration, Knight is confident that the chip on the little finger of his right hand will have healed in time, but Alec Stewart rather than, say, David Byas, Andy Moles or the impressive young Mark Butcher will be standing by just in case. The Indians are facing a morale-damaging defeat ahead of the Lord's Test, with Derbyshire dominating the tour match at Derby. The tourists' bowlers came in for heavy punishment on a day of sultry heat as Derbyshire scored 409 to take a first-innings lead of 180. Karl Kricken became the first player in Derbyshire's history to be out handling the ball; he had scored 70 when he chopped a delivery from Javagal Srinath towards his stumps and swatted the ball away with his left glove.

Essex v Northamptonshire

Gooch strides on towards WG

Paul Weaver at Chelmsford

IN GRAHAM GOOCH'S testimonial brochure there is an unlikely tribute from Paul Gascoigne in which he talks about taking "Goochie as my roll [sic] model. In my book he's always been No. 1." He starts the piece by asking: "What have Goochie and I got in common? Well, for a start our surnames both begin with G." Precisely. It is difficult to think of two more dissimilar sportsmen. At almost 43, fitness fanatic Gooch would certainly stand a better chance of getting through 90

minutes against Scotland this afternoon. The man is a miracle. To say he scored a century yesterday sounds a little mundane because he had achieved this on 122 previous occasions. On 123 hundreds he is now equal 10th in the all-time list, alongside Denis Compton. W G Grace (126) and Len Hutton (129) are immediately in front of him and he might see them off before the end of the summer. The remarkable thing is that his batting in this match — as when he scored a century in the last game against Lancashire — has been as

dominant as ever. Resuming on 38 yesterday morning, out of Essex's 63 for no wicket, he reached his fifty by off-driving Neil Mallender for four. When he cut his good friend John Embury for another boundary to reach his hundred (102 out of 186) he had faced only 115 balls and there had been 16 fours and a six. Just before he reached three figures, 10 overs before lunch, something unusual happened. His partner, Massimo Russall, left Embury into a distant garden behind the bowler. Gooch asked for the ball to be found. This took some time and before the interval a sub-

stituted was used. But when the original was reintroduced it proved far deadlier than in its previous incarnation. From 202 for one Essex slipped to 308 all out, a lead of 94, and they had looked unlikely to make that many when Paul Taylor, with swing and accuracy, took five wickets for 16 runs in only eight overs. After the demise of Russall and Gooch only Stuart Law (40) and Peter Such (31) resisted for seven as Taylor finished with seven for 88. At the close Northamptonshire were 133 for no wicket, 39 ahead. For those who have not



Gooch... 123rd century

seen enough youth in this match there was the surprising sight of a lawn (yes, really) running on to the field in the afternoon.

Surrey v Leicestershire

Surrey all talk

David Foot

SURREY, under new management, not least psychologically, are these days a palpably animated team. In the field they chatter away in mutual praise. The slips and gully exchange looks of appreciation, applauding every good-length ball, irrespective of success, rather like a line of generous-spirited committee-members acknowledging the reassuring words of the speaker at the annual flower show.

These can be admirable metaphors for a resurgent county. But significantly the noise level lessened later and, in one or two cases, frustration could be detected as appeals were turned down and Leicestershire fought back. At one point Leicestershire, replying to 452, were 68 for five. Then came a resolute, if occasionally lucky, and most commendable stand of 156 between Afab Habib and Paul Nixon. They transformed the innings before Nixon was out in the last over, caught at silly point. Habib, with one double century behind him this summer, is on 77 and Leicestershire have reached an unlikely 224 for six.

Earlier, Surrey's last four wickets added 112. Thorpe had gone on, with an always pleasing self-contained elan, to reach 154 before being caught at the wicket. It took him just over five hours; there were not many false strokes, certainly not the six and 21 fours. Pierson finished with six wickets, Parsons three. Leicestershire's response, even on this anodyne track, was initially a faltering exercise. There were streaky fours and near-catches. Butcher damaged his fingers at slip, went off and returned to bowl an undistinguished over of off-spin before tea. But there was an immediate compensation: his cap from the captain as he came in. Lewis, in particular, beat the bat easily on without success, though he judged and held a hook at long-leg, later called for a drink and with some insouciance fielded with the glass still in his hands.

Four of the five wickets had gone to the first-change Benjamin in an inspired eight-over spell that cost 19 runs. After that, success dried up. Mark Alleyne returned career-best figures of five for 32 as Sussex were bowled out for 187 after winning the toss at Bristol yesterday. But that was almost made to look respectable, as Gloucestershire crashed to 62 for eight before a stand of 62 between Smith and Ball took them to 138 for eight at stumps.

Kent v Middlesex

Tufnell may hold the key

Mike Selvey at Canterbury

HAVING had the better of the first day, Middlesex were unable to take full advantage yesterday as Kent battled to keep in the game. Middlesex resumed at 358 for five with hopes of batting the home team out of the game, but were disconcerted by Martin McCague's pace with the second new ball and stumbled to 383 for nine before an unlikely last-wicket partnership of 48 between Angus Fraser and Phil Tufnell inflated the score. Kent needed 352 to avoid the follow-on; never on top but by no means out of control, they used a mixture of blast and graft to reach 215 for four by the close. The pitch, which it was anticipated would help the bowlers more yesterday, in fact offered little for the seamer. Fraser, though wicketless, sent down a worthy and typically persimonious spell in the final session as Kent ground to a halt. Tufnell took the important wicket of Carl Hooper and the pitch offered enough spin for him to feel encouraged by the prospect of bowling on the last day.

When Hooper advanced down the wicket to the other end and chipped him out of the bowlers' rough straight to midwicket, it represented a triumph for pragmatism over entertainment. There is no more compulsive viewing anywhere than Hooper at one end and a spinner at the other, and for a couple of overs, with Tufnell in orthodox round-the-wicket mode, the crowd sat up. Tufnell might have had him caught at mid-off before Hooper hit him thrillingly straight for six and hoicked him over the short-midwicket boundary for another. But Tufnell eventually got him, caught by Harrison for 38. McCague's last aggressive spell first thing represented the most incisive bowling of the match so far. He began by removing Keith Brown with his eighth ball of the morning, beautifully caught low down by Hooper at second slip as the batsman pushed outside of stumps. The next ball, to Feltham, was a snorter that flicked the glove on the way through to Marsh. Fay then swayed back to avoid the bat-lick ball, but became McCague's final victim when he sliced a skyer to cover.

Chess

Kamsky quick on the draw

Leonard Barden

AFTER four long games, Anatoly Karpov and Gata Kamsky played a quick draw yesterday in their International Chess Federation (FIDE) world title match at Eilat in Kalmiyu. Karpov, the holder, leads the 20-game series 3-2. Some \$1 million awaits the winner, plus a unification match with the world No. 1, Garry Kasparov, who holds the rival version of the title. The 25-move game, lasting 2hr 40min, was full of incident, with Kamsky choosing an aggressive line of the Grunfeld Defence. The American challenger sacrificed rook for knight and gained a strong central attack, and the offer of his second rook at move 17 was declined by Karpov after 20 minutes' thought. At move 20 the players began repeating moves and Kamsky agreed a draw after half an hour. Watching experts were unimpressed. "Kamsky had real possibilities to continue in his powerful position," said the Russian IM Yevgeny Babchik. "He decided to avoid risk and take a break." Game six starts tomorrow.

**GAME FIVE:** White: Karpov. Black: Kamsky. 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. d4 exd4 5. Qd2 Qc7 6. Qc3 Qc6 7. Qc2 Qc7 8. Qc3 Qc6 9. Qc2 Qc7 10. Qc3 Qc6 11. Qc2 Qc7 12. Qc3 Qc6 13. Qc2 Qc7 14. Qc3 Qc6 15. Qc2 Qc7 16. Qc3 Qc6 17. Qc2 Qc7 18. Qc3 Qc6 19. Qc2 Qc7 20. Qc3 Qc6 21. Qc2 Qc7 22. Qc3 Qc6 23. Qc2 Qc7 24. Qc3 Qc6 25. Qc2 Qc7 26. Qc3 Qc6 27. Qc2 Qc7 28. Qc3 Qc6 29. Qc2 Qc7 30. Qc3 Qc6 31. Qc2 Qc7 32. Qc3 Qc6 33. Qc2 Qc7 34. Qc3 Qc6 35. Qc2 Qc7 36. Qc3 Qc6 37. Qc2 Qc7 38. Qc3 Qc6 39. Qc2 Qc7 40. Qc3 Qc6 41. Qc2 Qc7 42. Qc3 Qc6 43. Qc2 Qc7 44. Qc3 Qc6 45. Qc2 Qc7 46. Qc3 Qc6 47. Qc2 Qc7 48. Qc3 Qc6 49. Qc2 Qc7 50. Qc3 Qc6 51. Qc2 Qc7 52. Qc3 Qc6 53. Qc2 Qc7 54. Qc3 Qc6 55. Qc2 Qc7 56. Qc3 Qc6 57. Qc2 Qc7 58. Qc3 Qc6 59. Qc2 Qc7 60. Qc3 Qc6 61. Qc2 Qc7 62. Qc3 Qc6 63. Qc2 Qc7 64. Qc3 Qc6 65. Qc2 Qc7 66. Qc3 Qc6 67. Qc2 Qc7 68. Qc3 Qc6 69. Qc2 Qc7 70. Qc3 Qc6 71. Qc2 Qc7 72. Qc3 Qc6 73. Qc2 Qc7 74. Qc3 Qc6 75. Qc2 Qc7 76. Qc3 Qc6 77. Qc2 Qc7 78. Qc3 Qc6 79. Qc2 Qc7 80. Qc3 Qc6 81. Qc2 Qc7 82. Qc3 Qc6 83. Qc2 Qc7 84. Qc3 Qc6 85. Qc2 Qc7 86. Qc3 Qc6 87. Qc2 Qc7 88. Qc3 Qc6 89. Qc2 Qc7 90. Qc3 Qc6 91. Qc2 Qc7 92. Qc3 Qc6 93. Qc2 Qc7 94. Qc3 Qc6 95. Qc2 Qc7 96. Qc3 Qc6 97. Qc2 Qc7 98. Qc3 Qc6 99. Qc2 Qc7 100. Qc3 Qc6

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Scoreboard

Table with columns for match, score, and other details. Includes matches like Lancashire v Warwickshire, Essex v Northamptonshire, Surrey v Leicestershire, Kent v Middlesex, and Chess results.

LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

Table showing cricket match statistics for Lancashire vs Warwickshire, including batting and bowling figures.

ESSEX v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Table showing cricket match statistics for Essex vs Northamptonshire, including batting and bowling figures.

SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

Table showing cricket match statistics for Surrey vs Leicestershire, including batting and bowling figures.

KENT v MIDDLESEX

Table showing cricket match statistics for Kent vs Middlesex, including batting and bowling figures.

EUROSoccer.com advertisement. Text: 'YOU'D RATHER BE READING IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE BULGARIAN TEAM? WHAT'S WRONG, SCARED OF THE BALL? WOULD'N'T YOU BE, LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT!'. Includes logos for WUPOR 96, VAUXHALL, and The Guardian.

EURO 96 advertisement. Text: 'EURO 96 Group C: Czech Republic Apolloni... as Italy cru...'. Includes logos for EURO 96 and The Guardian.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



السبوت 15 يونيو 1996

EURO 96

Group C: Czech Republic 2, Italy 1

Apolloni sent off as Italy crumble

Ian Ross at Anfield

THE Czech Republic sprang the surprise of Euro 96 last night and Italy may have to defeat Germany at Old Trafford next Wednesday to avoid an ignominious early exit from the competition.

Italy's coach Arrigo Sacchi arguably maximises the squad system better than any of his current international contemporaries and after Tuesday's smooth win over Russia he shuffled a pack of so many aces. It made for an interesting contest.

The Czech Republic may be sustained more by spirit than by skill but it took them just a few minutes to remind the more cynical that even those teams with the look of cannon-fodder have the potential to surprise.

Something of a collector's item it was too with an Italian defence initially apprehensive and then thoroughly undone by a swiftly constructed and precise attack.

There was some substance to Italian claims that one, possibly two, Czechs were standing in offside positions as Pobrsky drilled in a cross from the right after five minutes.

However, they did not appear to be interfering with play. As arms were raised in futile appeal, Pavel Nedved collected and from a position of splendid isolation stabbed effortlessly beyond Peruzzi.

The Czechs continued to prod away at Italy's rather

tender underbelly but 18 minutes later they were undone by their own pronounced sense of ambition.

Suchoptarek's attempt to make ground down the left was halted by Enrico Chiesa who hurtled forwards. Having fed the overlapping Puser, he danced his way into the penalty area to slide home the second goal of his international career in only his second appearance for his country.

A nice enough moment but one almost forgotten 10 minutes later when Italy's centre-back Luigi Apolloni was dismissed — rightly so — for a second bookable offence.

Having clattered into Kuka early, on he foolishly and ridiculously repeated the offence under the nose of the referee. The decision to dispatch him to the dressing room was barely contested.

The mood of the evening swung once again. Ten minutes before the interval the underdogs growled again. Radok Bejbl arriving unannounced between Donadoni and Mussi to sublimely steer in Kuka's excellent cross.

The better chances fell Italy's way in the second half but on those occasions when the Czechs' discipline deserted them, Maldini shot high and Casiraghi wide.

Czech Republic: Kouba; Latal, Suchoparek, Kadlec, Hrnáček, Nedved, Pobrsky, Neman, Berger (Misser), Babi, Kuka.  
Italy: Peruzzi; Mussi, Apolloni, Costacurta, Maldini, Fuster, Saggio (Carone), St. Amant, Dorosini, Chiesa (Zola), Rossi (Cecchi), Zampieri, M. Materassi, I. Wast (Spin).



Coach driven... Paul Gascoigne will carry the hopes of Terry Venables against Scotland. 'He'll be giving everything,' the coach said

Gascoigne in search of redemption

IT IS five years, give or take a couple of weeks, since Paul Gascoigne emerged into the Wembley night air, possessed by emotions beyond his control. On the coach, in the dressing room, in the tunnel, such a fever grew inside his head that it consumed him. Within minutes of the start of the 1991 FA Cup final, he had destroyed himself.

Terry Venables was in charge of him that day, if anybody can ever be said to be in charge of Gascoigne. He looked on as the player went lunging at his opponents, wrecking his knee and, effectively, his career as well. After that, like the rest of us, he watched Gascoigne endure five years of pain and disappointment of frustration at being unable to do the one thing he can do better than anybody else knows and to go with it, five years of wallowing in Murdoch's culture, egged on by people who live well off his tragic folly.

This afternoon Venables will watch from the same seat as Gascoigne takes the same stage to face what for him represents the most highly charged match since that extraordinary day. Suddenly their destinies are entwined once more.

Yesterday morning Gascoigne left the rest of the England squad to their practices, jogging quietly away from the camera, across the lawn and into the privacy of Bisham Abbey's changing rooms. But he remained the focal point of all conversation.

At Venables's press conference, the coach talked about ways of protecting his most creative player during today's match against Scotland. He is not the first to confront the problem. When Gascoigne

coach said, "And I've got to take that into consideration." The English assumption is that he will be man-marked. Probably by Stuart McCall, his Rangers team-mate. "I'd say that's a distinct possibility," Venables observed. This time, however, the coach feels there is no danger of Gascoigne detonating himself in what is bound to be an explosive game. "I don't think he will. He knows that if he gets into a situation where they're trying to wind him up, he's

got to keep cool. I've spoken to him about many things that I expect it's not just that, but that would be one of them." How does he want Gascoigne to approach the game? "Like he always does. He's mad about his football. That's always underrated. There's only one thing he wants to do, get his shirt on and play for England. He'll be giving everything. I was pleased with him last week, if he can produce that again, that'll be fine."

It is easy to sneer at Paul Gascoigne, at the way his

sleazy relationship with the tabloids symbolises a particular kind of British decadence. But he is also a boy who grew up in the streets and fields of Gateshead with a ball at his feet, and there was a brief but touching glimpse of that side of him yesterday in the words of his England team-mate Steve Stone, who was also born in Gateshead and went to the same comprehensive school — to which, like Gascoigne, he gave one of his first England shirts.

"We were four years apart," Stone said. "I used to go and watch him at Newcastle United when I was a young lad. He was only 18 or 19 when he got into the first team, and when he came back to school to see the teachers he was a bit of a celebrity. He said hello to me a couple of times. I used to think, 'Wow, Paul Gascoigne.' Now I don't think that at all. I think, 'Bloody hell, fuck — here comes Paul...'" Stone is 24 years old and is everything Gascoigne is not: sensible, articulate, reliable.

His humour is dry and understated. When Stone described his feelings on meeting up with Gascoigne in the England squad, his tone had an amused affection, but also a pro's respect. "I always thought I'd love to see what he can do, to see if he can go past other people. And he does. He lived up to everything I thought he'd be. 'He's got something other people haven't got. Usually you can read people when they're coming up to you, what they're going to do. With him you can't. People say he's lost a yard of pace. I don't know if he has. I didn't play against him in the days when people say he was faster. But I don't think he has. I don't think he was ever that quick, frankly. But he still goes past people very easily."

None of us — not the people close enough to make for times from him; not Terry Venables, who must rely on his unpredictable genius; not even Steve Stone — has the vaguest idea of what Paul Gascoigne's life is like. Sometimes it seems the biggest practical joke of all, played at his own expense. And today at Wembley, still gripped by the old compulsions, he gets another shot at redemption.

Saints sack Merrington as Birmingham chase Papin

DAVE MERRINGTON yesterday became the first Premiership manager sacked this summer, only a month after he helped Southampton avoid relegation. Lawrie McMenemy, the club's director of football, has been placed in temporary charge of team matters.

The 51-year-old Merrington, who was promoted to manager last year after 11 seasons as youth team and reserve coach, had his contract terminated after a meeting with the chairman Guy Ashburn. "To say it's a great shock is a massive understatement," he said. "I'm leaving the club with deep regret and the matter is

now in the hands of my solicitor. It's not much of a reward for the efforts of last season. But there is a difficult legal position and I have no other comment."

Walsall's manager Chris Nicholl, himself sacked by Southampton, is rumoured to be favourite to take over. Birmingham City are hoping to sign the 32-year-old former French international Jean Pierre Papin for £1 million from Bayern Munich. Martin George has stepped down as chairman of Leicester City. He will be succeeded by Tom Smeaton, who is believed to have secured £7 million for the manager Martin O'Neill to spend in the transfer market.

Dauids sent home after row

EDGAR DAVIDS, who was expected to be Holland's inspiration in the championship, was sent home last night after a row with the coach Guus Hiddink.

The bust-up came after the Milan-bound midfielder was dropped for Holland's victory over Switzerland on Thursday. He reacted by telling Dutch newspapers that Hiddink was "up the backside" of other players — taken to be a reference to Davids's Ajax colleagues Ronald de Boer and the captain Danny Blind. Hiddink demanded an apology. Davids refused to back down and the coach told him to pack his bags. The player flew home last night and will play no further part in the tournament. "This wasn't an

easy decision to make," said Hiddink. "But these are times when you have to take such decisions, however difficult, for the good of the team."

Blind said: "It was a decision of the coach and he only spoke to me after he had talked to Edgar. I am surprised at what has happened because I have played with Edgar for some years now and nothing like this has ever occurred before."

The bust-up marks the culmination of a nightmarish fortnight for Davids. His ineffectual showing in the goalless draw against Scotland on Monday followed a flop in the European Cup final, when he missed a penalty in the shoot-out defeat by Juventus.

There was disharmony too in Group B, where Romania have protested to Uefa about Peter Mikkelsen's handling of their 1-0 defeat by Bulgaria in which a "goal" from Dorinel Munteanu was disallowed. Russia in Group C have also complained. They have sent a letter of protest to Uefa saying that, in their 2-1 defeat at Anfield on Tuesday, Italy's first goal was offside.

Germans romp in nude



WE ARE sad to report that the good folk of Macclesfield (MP: Nicholas Winterton) have had enough of naked German footballers cavorting in the sauna. Have these foreigners no shame — or fluffy towels? British guests at the team's luxury hotel have quite rightly complained about this disgraceful behaviour, and a fully clothed Bert Vogts was yesterday shamed into issuing a public explanation. Rather feebly he suggested that chaps do that sort of thing all the time in Germany and he expressed surprise that anyone could take offence at the sight of Jürgen Klinsmann's backside. "I knew that in Finland all you need in your hand is a glass of schampans. In Russia you just need a hat. It seems that in England you must have your trunks," he said. "You have to know."

AND while on the subject of funny foreigners, here's an urgent travel update from the Bulgarians. Having swapped Scarborough (too boring) for Stockton, they were supposed to move on to Durham. But wanderlust got the better of them again yesterday when they bypassed their scheduled stop-off — Redwood Hall (not enough shops) — in favour of the Holiday Inn, north of Newcastle (nice swimming-pool). "I am told this move is definite — for now," said their liaison officer, who has hot-tailed up the motorway in pursuit. "But it would be advisable to check on their hotel again tomorrow. At the moment we don't know where, or if, they are going to train either."

VALIANT attempt by London Transport to make German supporters feel welcome has backfired. Passengers arriving on the Eurostar at Waterloo Station are greeted by a poster asking "Are you going to Wembley?" and offering advice on the best route. Which would all be very nice if the German translation, immediately underneath, said the same. Unfortunately "Geben sie nach Wembley?" means "Are you walking to Wembley?"

THOSE wishing to get away from the Tartan hordes today should head west to Bath racecourse and the GIVE Wembley A Miss Limited Stakes at 4.40pm. Clearly not a race for Gazza: it's for stayers over a mile and a half.

Ridiculous hats that Gazza should consider. No. 2: slavay Nemecik (Czech Republic, below).



Torsorial note: Strikingly silly. Not even Bobby Charlton would go for this.

Euro 96 results

Table with columns for Group A, B, C, D and match results. Includes teams like Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Turkey, and their respective scores.

Table with columns for Group E, F, G, H and match results. Includes teams like Bulgaria, Romania, Spain, France, Croatia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, and their respective scores.

Advertisement for 'A REUNION' beer, featuring a dark bottle and a label with the text 'A REUNION' and 'BEER WILKINSON TURNER'.

Advertisement for 'The MALT' beer, featuring a bottle and the text 'The MALT'.

Advertisement for 'The MALT' beer, featuring a bottle and the text 'The MALT'.

Advertisement for '2ND CORNHILL TEST ENGLAND V INDIA' cricket match, including the date '20th - 21st June' and 'BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 3355'.



Another upset for Hill, page 9

Knight points the finger, page 10

Gascoigne's chance for redemption, page 11

# SportsGuardian

EURO 96

## Platt holds key to England

David Lacey on what Wembley can expect for today's epic encounter between England and Scotland

**T**HIS afternoon some two dozen young men will kick a ball, and occasionally one another, around in order to decide Britain's future role in Europe. Or at least that part of it which applies to the remaining fortnight of the 1996 European Championship.

A referendum will not be necessary, the Thatcher Foundation need not be disturbed, the only German with a direct interest in the outcome of today's proceedings goes by the name of John, not Theresa, and a gold head, rather than a goldsmith, will be the centre of attention.

The luck of the draw, if it can be so described, has brought England and Scotland together for the first time since English violence in Glasgow before the 1988 encounter forced the abandonment of the game's oldest international fixture. By then the contests had become so drab that scarcely a tear was shed.

This afternoon's match is unlikely to be remembered for the quality of its football.

There is no Jim Baxter to play England off their own park, no Bobby Charlton to leave a regular calling card in the back of the Scottish net.

There is, however, the virtual certainty of a place in the quarter-finals for the winners, along with the dull expectancy of a back seat among the also-rans for the losers. A draw would satisfy Scotland, who meet Switzerland on Tuesday, more than England, who face Holland.

The teams remain unknown although Craig Brown's plans appear clearer than those of Terry Venables. Brown, having switched to a 4-4-2 formation in Monday's goalless draw with Holland, is expected to return to a three-man defence with five in midfield. Venables's formation depends on the state of David Platt's damaged rib muscles.

Against most expectations Scotland will come to Wembley on a relative high, England on a low. The Scots, having benefited from a penalty wrongly refused, emerged from Villa Park to receive praise for the intelligence of their approach, the fitness of



Bring on the Tartan Tribes... a sizeable Scottish contingent will ensure that Wembley is a riot of colour and noise

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK BARON

## Battles to savour

**M**A RTIN THORPE identifies areas where today's match might be won or lost.

**Gascoigne v McCall**

Beauty and the beast. The hard-working McCall's role just in front of the Scotland back three makes him the first line of defence in stopping his Rangers team-mate's runs into the area. But do not expect any man-marking. "The only answer will be for us to keep the ball away from him," says McCall. Or any physical stuff? "We don't want to get him upset so he takes his anger out on us," says Craig Brown. And anyway, adds McCall, "my little daughter idolises him and has asked me not to kick him".

**Shearer v Hendry**

Craig Brown admits, "This match-up could be decisive." Blackburn team-mates who are as tough, strong and brave as each other, both are good in the air. Hendry has a two-inch height advantage which may prove decisive if England can get their crosses in. But Shearer, with his smaller turning-circle and greater acceleration, will be expected to dominate on the ground, with Hendry relying on Boyd to cover behind should Shearer break through. "Shearer owns the penalty box when he plays," says another Scot among his Blackburn team-mates, Kevin Gallacher. As Hendry likes to do the same, expect an irresistible force to meet an immovable object.

**Ince v McAllister**

An important job for Ince, sitting in front of the England defence, will be to stop McAllister getting sight of goal to unleash one of his long-distance strikes. With Scotland's forwards not renowned for their scoring, the team rely heavily on McAllister and Collins to shoot from range. Ince will also need every smidgen of his renowned tenacity to close down McAllister and restrict his forward distribution of the ball. But in doing so the England player must keep his discipline and try to avoid giving away any needless free-kicks on the edge of the area and in prime McAllister range.

This is the stuff that dreams are made on - copper ore at an open cast mine in Chile, worth a fortune on the metals markets. Yesterday, though, it became the stuff of nightmares as a multi-billion dollar fraud broke and dealers around the world shivered in shock. **PATRICK DONOVAN and PAUL MURPHY** report

their team and the tenacity of their resilience.

Meanwhile England suffered a media mauling after being held to 1-1 by Switzerland through a penalty wrongly awarded. They were condemned for a second-half retreat which handed the initiative to opponents whose modest aspirations were eventually exposed by the Dutch. Confessions of tired-

ness reactivated accusations of alcohol abuse.

If for no other reason, England need to win to bury their recent past. They should win, especially if the better periods of the Swiss game are maintained beyond half-time. Alan Shearer ought to know more ways past Colin Hendry, his Blackburn team-mate, than any other striker living. Before this can happen,

however, another contest between club colleagues will need to be resolved. One of the reasons for Paul Gascoigne's success in Scotland last season was that Stuart McCall was on the same side. Now the Rangers midfielder will seek to minimise his club-mate's influence, having already eroded the match-winning potential of Edgar Davids.

After Gascoigne's collapse against Switzerland there were those who felt he ought not to start today. Venables's reaction to this suggestion has been akin to that of Diaghilev being asked whether he intended dropping Nijizky. "I was very pleased with him last week," said Venables yesterday. "Yes, he may be man-marked tomorrow but I've got to try and make that hard for them." Gascoigne too, presumably.

However, should John Collins produce another fine performance in midfield and Gary McAllister spread his passing skills across Wembley's space, it may take more than whatever inspiration Gascoigne can achieve between recovery periods to give England any sort of hold.

One goal either way should win it, always assuming a goal is scored. By tonight England should know whether their role as hosts for Euro 96 is likely to amount to anything more than making sandwiches and presenting prizes. And Venables will know if he has put his faith in destiny or destiny.

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A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,680, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 4AX, by first post on Friday Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday June 24.

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**How's it feel, at such a moment in history?" he asks. "Not comfortable," I reply, before being ushered through a security door into the witness box, in front of a bulletproof glass screen, in the first international war crimes trial since Nuremberg. Ed Vulliamy**

Set by Araucaria

Method: Solve the clues and fit the solutions into the diagram jigsaw-wise, wherever they will go

A. fever's damage to spleen: a guest soap no way to be seen (4-4)

B. full account (start with end) of child with a sinister bend (2-4)

C. are diminutive blokes or wreaths worn by classical folk (8)

D. for Tim's turn Paul's advice from French about microphone (5,4)

E. is for Duke and for duke, the one that his leader forsook (8)

F. home from far fields with hunt (9,4)

G. for this novel this script? Become thick when the monarch has skipped (6)

H. for a plant grown inside, a standard the firm waves with pride (5-4)

I. is a lobe in the brain, a second in elecampane (6)

J. the month's brief, I give thanks, for rulers of military ranks (5)

K. is a character Greek, a checker of rates, so to speak (5)

L. takes up minimum spaces: an article's entered in case (6)

M. ends in cross to keep quiet (8) the dead get their way in a diet (8)

N. for the East time for dinner, who isn't (asks vicar) a sinner? (2-3)

O. as a cat of the snow, tell the world that the girl has to go (5)

**COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY**

COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY

For two more such as KC Madonna and child on last day (5)

G. my health is all right, if someone in Surrey, take flight (5,4)

H. I am making whoopee; not straightforward to terrify me (9)

S. goes to pubs taking Ryle in simply magnificent style (8)

T. pen in one tyrant that's free with calm as of satellite's sea (12)

U. is the next thing to hide—thing cradled on transom (13)

V. to give out to the quick's for religious brigade double six (8)

W. unyielding in fight, respected, if not in despise (12)

X. with ten articles leader, the name (for a blonde?) of a maiden (6)

Y. when it climbs study road, which boardroom or sleepiness showed (8)

Z. from this tale to ascend ran a business enclosed at the end (8)

COLLINS CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,679

1. A. 2. B. 3. C. 4. D. 5. E. 6. F. 7. G. 8. H. 9. I. 10. J. 11. K. 12. L. 13. M. 14. N. 15. O.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



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# The Guardian Outlook

**This is the stuff that dreams are made on - copper ore at an open cast mine in Chile, worth a fortune on the metals markets. Yesterday, though, it became the stuff of nightmares as a multi-billion dollar fraud broke and dealers around the world shivered in shock. PATRICK DONOVAN and PAUL MURPHY report**



Chaquecamata open-cast copper mine, Chile  
PHOTOGRAPH: DREDEL/NETWORK

## The copper and robbers riddle

**T**HE PLOT for the audacious multi-billion pound copper fraud which was unravelling yesterday in dealing rooms across the world has all the ingredients of a prime-time television thriller. At its centre is a clutch of shadowy deals, the most mysterious called "Radar".

The cast ranges from thirty-something London commodity dealers and a gambling-crazy Japanese broker to some of the world's largest companies, such as the Japanese-based Sumitomo Corporation. The Chilean government is implicated, too, hiring international lawyers to try to trace tens of millions of pounds of missing money.

And all this is set against the gritty backdrop of Guernsey and other offshore bolt-holes where private companies operated, some because of reasons of tax, others perhaps because they did not wish their financial affairs thrown open to close official scrutiny.

This is a shady world in which the small Guernsey Fraud Squad has found itself engaged in a gigantic investigation involving financial centres across the globe. Yesterday it was joined by Britain's Serious Fraud Office and the City of London Police, who are looking at mainland UK companies suspected of being involved in what astounded traders are describing as the most ambitious global financial fraud: a systematic at-

tempt to siphon off untold profits by controlling the entire world market in copper.

It started out as a web of irregular transactions - code name "Radar" - that added up to £2 billion in deals and involved a tenth of the world's entire supply of copper. The fraud escalated - but early yesterday morning the elaborately constructed scam was beginning to fall apart as the Sumitomo Corporation announced that it had lost £1.3 billion from what it coyly describes as "unauthorised trading" and that its top trader, Yasuo Hamanaka, had been sacked.

Hamanaka - aged 30 and described by colleagues as being mainly interested in "dice and girls" - may have been unknown in the wider world but within the secretive community of commodity dealing he was the biggest single player. Such is his reputation that the slightest suggestion that he was preparing to deal in the market could move the copper price by hundreds of dollars a tonne.

In major financial centres across the world, bleary-eyed dealers were manning their desks through the night on Thursday, waiting for the opening of the London Metal Exchange. For the City is the linchpin in the world's commodity dealing system - the biggest non-ferrous metals market that turns around £2.5 billion of business a year. Growing by 700 per cent over the past eight years, it has

### Sting 2: sticky fingers

**T**HE GREATEST financial scams have always proved to be the simplest - even in this case, with an individual working for a Japanese corporation running up losses put at \$2.5 billion or more from trading in the arcane world of copper.

The circumstances under which Yasuo Hamanaka, right, head of Sumitomo Corporation's copper trading division, carried out massive unauthorised trades over a 10-year period bear a striking resemblance to another copper market scandal - the Codelec affair of January 1994. On that occasion another lone individual, Juan Pablo Davila, who was responsible for the market dealings of Chile's state-owned copper agency, confessed to making losses of more than \$200 million over five years.

At first this "rogue trader" claimed simply to have made a few minor mistakes and then to have



made London the global centre for metal dealing.

Copper may not be as glamorous as diamonds or gold but it is of huge strategic importance in practically every industrial activity. The metal links together most of the world's telephone networks and provides the guts of electric motors, transformers and printed circuit boards. It's big bucks.

Within minutes of the market opening on Friday, it became clear that Sumitomo's predicted losses were wildly optimistic. As the shock reverberated around the market, the price of copper dropped like a stone. In early trading, Sumitomo's losses were escalating at the rate of \$3 million every minute, sending shivers through the share markets and raising fears of major casualties among finan-

cial institutions with a big exposure to the copper market.

Prices, however, recovered somewhat during afternoon trading.

This affair stretches from Chile to Tokyo, from the City of London to the hectic dealing rooms of New York. For the last three years, regulators which monitor these markets have been increasingly uneasy about a spate of switch-back movements in the copper price which could not be explained by prevailing trading conditions. But it was only when 15 members of the Guernsey Fraud Squad, accompanied by regulators from Britain and the US, raided three premises on the island on May 11 that the scale of the complex fraud began to take shape.

The purpose of the raid remains a puzzle. Fresh from

racked up huge losses in a desperate attempt to win back the money. But investigators discovered a number of secret bank accounts, stuffed with cash, in off-shore tax havens such as the Cayman Islands. Payments into these accounts, controlled by Davila, were traced back to London-based metal brokers.

With Codelec now suing several of these brokers, the straightforward charge being made is that its employees knowingly entered into trades with metal brokers which he knew would produce losses. A portion of the profits reaped by brokers in London would then be passed back to Davila through his secret accounts.

The betting now is that Sumitomo has fallen victim to a similar fraud. Investigators from around the world will be tracing which brokers dealt with Hamanaka and who made money.

All we know for sure is that lawyers in at least three continents will be kept in business for years.

that half-a-dozen plain-clothes officers entered the house early last Sunday morning and took away a number of documents. However, Tickler declines to return messages left at his office and staff refuse to answer any questions.

Tracing the ownership of the companies involves requesting files in Le Gratie, the main Guernsey register of commercial businesses. One firm blurs into another, nominee holdings in the Channel Islands disappear into anonymous holding companies in the British Virgin Islands, and the Republic of Ireland. It's like running into a fog.

It is understood that the mysterious Guernsey raid was a major part in a far-more wide-ranging inquiry being masterminded by police agencies and two powerful regulatory bodies - Britain's Spec-

ities and Investment Board (SIB) and the US-based Commodities and Futures Trading Commission. For weeks they have been ploughing through documents unearthed in the raids and discussing the findings privately with companies involved. Earlier this week, it became clear that they could delay no longer. Such was the overwhelming weight of evidence against Yasuo Hamanaka that his employer was forced to admit late on Thursday night that a huge fraud had been unearthed.

The authorities had long been concerned about the running of the market because of the discovery by Codelec, the Chilean state copper concern, that one of its traders - now arrested - had been taking bribes in return for giving international dealing firms hugely favourable deals. Codelec has hired international lawyers in an attempt to get its money back.

But the latest inquiry has shown that irregularities within the copper market go far deeper. The common link is Hamanaka, now reported to be under house arrest. Authorities first became suspicious when news started leaking out about the "Radar" deals involving him and a major British commodity dealing company. The trading coup aroused suspicions in the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the City watchdog charged with regulating the London metals market, and a secret investigation was launched in October 1994.

The world copper market, which passes through the hands of the commodity traders, was unusually volatile during 1993. Prices slumped from \$2,500 a tonne early that year to a low of \$1,600 in the summer and then rocketed - topping \$3,000 a tonne by the summer of 1994. In the months after these rapid fluctuations, SFA officials were conducting routine checks at British dealing firms. In September of 1994 they stumbled across details of the immensely profitable £2 billion transaction struck a year earlier with Sumitomo.

**A** FORMAL, although confidential, inquiry was launched after SFA investigators received what were believed to be unsatisfactory answers to questions about two secret trading accounts. One was codenamed "Radar", the other "Magn". The probe lasted eight weeks, with a report being produced in December 1994.

This is the tip of the iceberg. Even investigators close to the inquiry admit they still have no real feeling about the extent of the fraud. But clearly it goes well beyond Hamanaka. The police are stepping up the pressure. And officers involved will soon find there is nowhere to hide - even in the looking-glass world of the Guernsey super-rich.

*Additional reporting by Owen Bowcott*

# Mrs. Joanne Clarke of Newport

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# A kind of Russian roulette

**T**WO CANDIDATES, one presidency and the devil's choice for the Russian people to make between them. Foreign headlines that Boris Yeltsin is the only man for Russia are no help at all, merely conveying the voting message that he is the only man for the West. Yet we should avoid the revisionist trap of concluding that Gennady Zyuganov must be preferable. It might serve the advocates of untrammelled free marketry right if Russia returned (as they would put it) into communist hands, but Mr Zyuganov has problems of his own. It is futile to look for an alternative elsewhere. The other candidate likely to do best is the ultranationalist buffoon Vladimir Zhirinovskiy beside whom General Lebed, admiral of General Pinochet, appears a moderate.

The liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky or his former boss Mikhail Gorbachev might be labelled more appropriately good for Russia, but it is not going to happen. Unless Mr Zhirinovskiy springs a very nasty surprise, the other candidates will only count if and when

their allegiances have to be transferred for a second round.

Rostov-on-Don in southern Russia typifies the collapse of well-established industry and popular confidence. Its agricultural machinery has become outdated and the miners in the Donets Basin coalfield are paid late if at all. Both leading presidential candidates have visited Rostov recently. Mr Yeltsin was there last week, dropping in on a rock concert in the city stadium. "Young people," he bellowed, "you are Russia's future, you are Russia's hope. I don't think you would allow yourselves to be restrained (by communism) — you won't allow this to happen." Then he joined in the dancing on stage performing commendably, according to a TV commentator, "for a man of his age and position".

Mr Zyuganov has also visited Rostov, and tells the story himself. Tens of thousands of people, he proudly relates, stood in the square in silence, as if they were listening to a patriotic announcement from the Soviet Information Bureau in the most crucial days of the Great Fatherland War. Instead, they were listening to him. Suddenly a worker came up to the rostrum with a toolbag, and produced an ordinary metal-worker's hammer. "Gennady Andreyevich," said this honest man, "I want to hand you not a sword but a hammer. With just one instruction: Let us work!" He was followed by a woman with a bunch of flowers and another instruction: Help Mother Russia. Mr Zyuganov said he would do just that.

All elections have an element of charade but it is hard to detect the sub-

stance behind either of these two contrasting performances. Mr Yeltsin has handed out largesse — while international financial institutions which would normally be appalled look the other way. He has shamelessly played the Red card and projected himself as Russia's big daddy, in an act which many voters seem to enjoy even while they see through it. Mr Zyuganov appeals to an older form of patriotism and while rejecting the methods of Stalin he invokes this part at least of the old man's spirit. His policies may be fairly bland but he has an alarming sense of history. If Stalin had lived five to seven years longer, he argues, then the dictator would have succeeded in reviving Russia's tradition of "spiritual government" and the Soviet Union would not have collapsed. Mr Zyuganov was never one of the children of the 20th Party congress: he belongs to the political generation formed under Brezhnev rather than Khrushchev. His appeal is not improved by a strong whiff of anti-Semitism in his camp — which he condemns ambiguously as the by-product of nationalism taken too far.

We can only hold our breath and watch. Choosing sides is not only counter-productive but presumptuous. The outside world has given plenty of dubious advice to Russia since 1990 and its track record of prediction is unremittingly poor. The two main candidates represent substantial arguments in society even if they do so in a parodied form. The Russian people cannot escape being part of the drama, but most of them go into it with their eyes wide open: they do not need distracting noises offstage.

# Calling time on the century

**I**T IS an ominous sign of national angst — both political and economic — that the Government still hasn't persuaded enough businessmen to support the proposed £500 million Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich despite the carrot provided by £200 million of lottery money. What a contrast both to the extravagant self-confidence of the Great Exhibition of 1851 — built at a profit by private means without any help from the taxpayer — and to the publicly funded Festival of Britain in 1951 which waved goodbye to post-war austerity. Both in contrasting ways knew exactly what they were doing and did it with panache. Greenwich can't decide whether it is a public or a private project but has to have a private sector presence to satisfy Government dogma even though industry can't make a profit out of it.

It has an interesting theme — 12 pavilions dedicated to aspects of "time" which Greenwich has more reason to promote than anywhere else: but still no Great Idea beyond celebrating the passing of another 1,000 years. It needs to become a rallying point for the nation and provide infrastructure which will survive at least for the next 100 years — not to be pulled down as so much of the Festival of Britain was. Pessimists say it is too late now to change direction with the millennium barely three and a half years away and point to the hugely late

British Library as an example of infrastructural projects which lose their sense of time. Maybe it is just that sense of pessimism that Greenwich needs to dispel. After all, the Great Exhibition was constructed in barely seven months. (Perhaps there should be a competition to build a replica in even less time.)

If Greenwich is to be regenerative in spirit, then part of the site ought to be set aside for a Millennium Village harnessing state-of-the-art technology from all over the world to build a model habitation for the next century. It could combine the most advanced techniques from the digital and "green" revolutions in a suitably landscaped environment with workshops, a "virtual library", entertainment facilities and a school-of-the-future which interested parties elsewhere could access through the Internet. The village could be partly covered by a glass canopy (as Sir Richard Rogers plans for the South Bank) to raise the temperature enough to make it an outdoor living space. Such a habitat would be useful in its own right but would also generate ideas for others and provide a spur for Michael Heseltine's dream of Thames-side regeneration.

There is obvious irony when time runs out for an exhibition dedicated to time: and there is no doubt that the schedule is looking daunting. But the prospect of deadlines can also be exhilarating. If a contaminated gasworks site in Greenwich can be turned into a showcase for the next century in less than three and a half years then it will be a cause for national celebration in its own right. And if it isn't? Perish the thought.

**JONATHAN STEELE finds that fear is the key in tomorrow's Russian presidential election — Yeltsin or Zyuganov? Right or left? Bad or worse? Go for the communist, he argues. Illustration: PETER TILL**

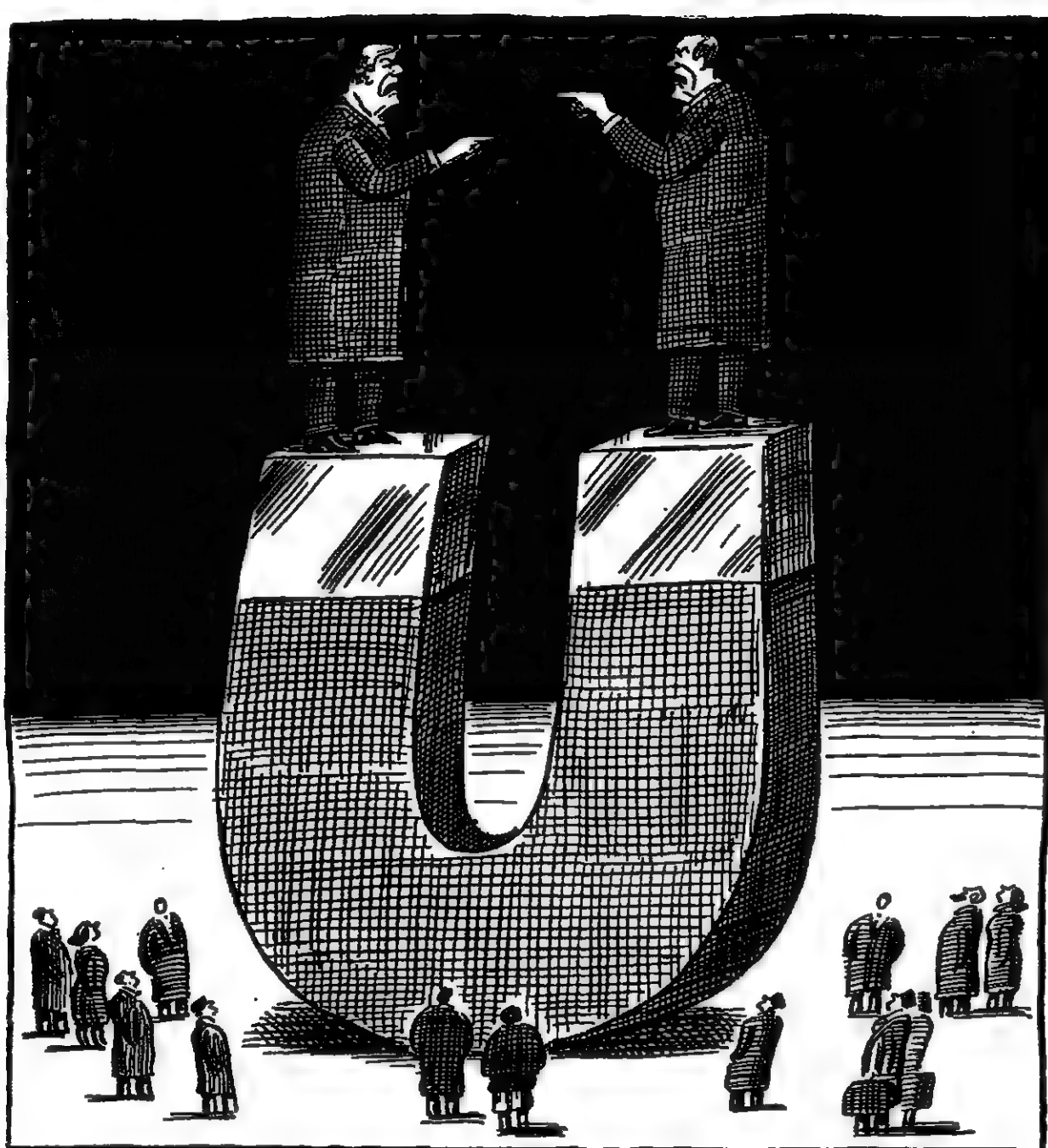
# Devil's horns of a dilemma

**E**LECTION campaigns polarise and desperate candidates polarise absolutely. The Russian presidential contest is described in some quarters as the most doom-laden watershed since the collapse of the Soviet Union, with the danger of carrying Russia back to totalitarianism. This "Apocalypse Now" variant has been heavily pushed by Boris Yeltsin, the three national television channels he controls and, regrettably, the majority of the western media.

This extreme presentation of tomorrow's choice became inevitable once Yeltsin decided to run for re-election. His instinct has always been confrontational, his style simplistic. Given his unpopularity, there was no way other than by trading on fear that he could win the election, or hope for chaotic western support for refusing to accept defeat and hand over power.

The less hysterical view is that Russians will not be choosing between enlightened reform and repressive reaction but between centre-right and centre-left. The issues on which that cleavage makes itself felt are not the same as in Western Europe, for cultural and historical reasons. Russia is going through a painful transition, from a system of almost 100 per cent state ownership to privatisation, from controlling a vast empire to reduced international status, from the politics of enforced obedience to pluralism and openness. This process of chaotic modernisation has become irreversible but the question is whether its next stage will wear a broadly right-wing or left-wing face.

The main charge against Yeltsin is not that he chose to bring in market reforms in a Thatcherite manner but that



of command still are opaque and Byzantine. He allowed to flourish a system of corruption in which not one government minister or high official has ever been tried. He encouraged fraud to seep into the election process by ordering his appointees to engineer the correct result in the December 1993 referendum.

The case against Zyuganov is also strong, though it is not the one Yeltsin and his backers put. The charge that he is a crypto-totalitarian has no credible basis. For a man who still calls himself a communist, Zyuganov's recognition of the undemocratic elements of Soviet communism is no less forthright than Yeltsin's. He criticises the party for trying to maintain a monopoly over all thought and action. He favours abolishing the authoritarian presidency and giving power to parliament.

The worry is his appalling

attitude to Stalin (his role in building up the Soviet state outweighs the repressions) and a primitive world view which leads Zyuganov to see Jewish or CIA conspiracies everywhere. The Stalin point is an historical curiosity and his view of the outside world has little operational significance. In practice, his foreign policy would have none of the aggressive and neo-imperialist emotionalism of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Zyuganov's main aim is to revive Russian industry and the traditional markets the Soviet Union used to enjoy. For that he needs good relations with his neighbours. He promises to do more to protect Russia's new capitalists and what remains of the state sector from foreign penetration by imposing import tariffs, holding down domestic energy prices as a form of subsidy for Russian industry and protect-

# The old and the toothless

## Rattling the bars



Ian Aitken

**N**OW that the House of Lords at last seems to be facing a genuine threat of "reform", if not outright abolition, its defenders have redoubled their efforts to portray it as an indispensable protector of our ancient liberties against the depredations of a power-crazed executive. Their lordships — and in particular the Labour peers — had an unrivalled opportunity to exercise this crucial function this week.

The occasion was the committee stage of Home Secretary Howard's deplorable Security Services Bill — a measure which seeks to legalise the kind of illegal bugging and burglary described so enthusiastically by the late Peter Wright in his notorious book *Spycatcher*. The spooks of MI5, worried that they may be facing redundancy in the post-cold war world, now want new powers to "assist" the police in tracking down crooks as well as spies and subversives.

Mr Howard intends to give them these powers in abundance. So last weekend the leader columns of the *Observer* and the *Guardian* issued a ringing call to our unelected nobility to correct the failure of the elected legislature to do anything to stop him. Illustrious names like those of Tom Paine, Milton, Locke, Mill and Wilkes were called in witness. So what happened? Nothing.

Well, almost nothing. Andrew McIntosh, Labour's deputy leader in the Lords, moved a series of amendments to the bill designed to set limits to the proposed bugging, letter-opening, breaking-and-entering and phone-tapping powers authorised by the bill. Labour peers had been alerted to be on hand, and the government whips summoned their troops just in case.

But in the event, every

single one of the Opposition amendments was tamely withdrawn, even though no significant ministerial concessions were offered. No one who knows Lord McIntosh — a vigorous supporter of civil liberties — could imagine he acted on his own initiative. So we can assume that he was told to cave in by the Labour leadership in the Commons. That would be consistent with Jack Straw's increasingly desperate efforts to project himself as even tougher on crime than Hitler Howard.

So much for Tom Paine, Milton, Locke, et al. Old Labour to a man, I fear.

□ DID you spot anything unusual about Thursday night's Mansion House dinner? Or did it look just as stuffy as usual on your TV screen? If so, you were wrong. A great blow was struck for classlessness, democracy and modernity. Ken Clarke and the rest of the men wearing black ties instead of the traditional white ones.

This seems to have been a last minute change of plan, since the embossed invitations were altered by hand. It sent shock waves through the City, and right up to the Daily Telegraph offices high in the Canary Wharf building. Pandemics of manners and fashion were wheeling out to condemn the move as yet another example of declining standards.

Did good old Ken Clarke have a hand in the change? If so, it is one more count in his favour, on top of his admirable contempt for the advice of Steady Eddie, the Governor of the Bank of England. But even so, it isn't entirely original.

The late George Brown, in his tired and emotional days at the Department of Economic Affairs, once announced his absolute refusal to don white tie and tails for a similar City bash. It was contrary to his socialist principles, he said. So he went in a tuxedo instead.

This moved the wags of Annie's Bar to compose a new parody on the Red Flag, containing the lines: "With heads uncovered swear we all, 'To wear a black tie to the ball'."

□ A RETIRED journalist I know, who has had the misfortune to lose his sight, possesses a pensioner's bus pass issued by the London Borough of Haringey. Unlike similar passes for sighted people, it carries no picture of the holder. In the space for the picture are the words: "Blind person — no photograph required." Think about it.

## Smallweed



**W**HITIE may have given way to waiters' outfits at the Mansion House banquet this week, but the most formal of evening wear is not heading into the BBC costume department just

yet. Lipman of Ludgate Hill, which has hired out many a tie (black, white and pearl-grey) to the feasting classes, was philosophical. "Here you are," said Michael Conway, who added that the full concert pianist outfit survives beyond the reach of Clarkson blockbusters at Liverpool company dinners and Guildhall functions for heads of state. Smallweed himself attended the Lord Mayor's banquet in November, wearing the Mansion House to confirm that "evening dress" was synonymous with "black tie". It was not, came the reply. "Had we meant black tie we should have written 'dinner jacket'." The last two words were pronounced as if they were "bomber jacket". Wednesday may have been our belated revenge for this snotty rejoinder.

**T**HERE is a keen personal interest behind Dennis O'Driscoll's piece in the latest issue of *London Magazine* concerning the role of work and professional duties in the life of Philip Larkin. O'Driscoll himself, a Customs official of 20 years' standing, is scrambling to finish his fourth collection of poetry and have it away to his publisher, Anvil, before the end of the month. Why? Ireland assumes the EU presidency on July 1, and O'Driscoll is assigned to the task force dealing with all matters relating to excise duties, smuggling, drug-traffic and the like. This has to be "the most unlovely reason" for finishing a volume of poetry, he tells us, but he knows he won't get a minute's peace once Dublin becomes Euro-capital. As for Larkin, O'Driscoll seems impressed by the argument that, had he

packed to librarianship, his low-wattage output (Larkin's last full collection, *High Windows*, appeared in 1974) would have surged to *Sixtyfour* proportions. Nor, he said, does he have much time for the denigration of Larkin by those who have suddenly discovered that the old grouse wasn't exactly a candidate for the Helena Kennedy Political Correctness Rosebowl — they are "wishing the vices of the world upon him".

So should a poet have a day job? "[The] age of the remittance-man writer... is gone," he tells us. When it comes to working in a bank, a library or indeed a customs office in Room 514, Castle House, Dublin 1, "I don't think it does any harm." But the provisional title of the new collection tells a slightly different story: *Quality Time*.

as further evidence that he has had enough and is about to call an election. But the affair of the deprived casualty department tells otherwise. Only when the squeeze artists are told to push off can we be certain that JM has become indifferent to his fate.

In *The Writing on the Wall* (Michael Joseph, 1985), Enoch Powell reminded us of the collapse of the last Labour government: "Watching Callaghan I couldn't help saying to myself, 'There's a man who's fed up'... If he hadn't been fed up he wouldn't have lost the vote of confidence. He could certainly for a whiff of gas have had the two or three votes which were necessary." The gas was a reference to the famous pipeline to Northern Ireland demanded by Ulster MPs and refused, suicidally, by Callaghan. Major, of course, has already promised a gas pipe-

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# Conservative corpse awaits silver bullet



Martin Kettle

THE condition of the Conservative Party today is a bit like the condition of the villain in the last minutes of a Batman or a Star Wars movie. Picture it. The ruler of darkness is finally getting what has been coming to him. Zap. Pow.

Take that, you fiend, Kersplat. And that, Kerpow. Sweet revenge.

Then, as dazzling scenes of pyrotechnic destruction fill the screen for the big finish, someone turns to the hero. Gosh, Batman, he says, no one could possibly have survived that. And at the very moment that the schmuck says it, you know for sure that, however improbable it may be, this enemy's secret weapon is survival. Wiped out or not, he'll be back next time. It's the same with the Tories.

We are approaching the final frames now. The plight of the Conservatives really does look irrecoverable. A year after John Major launched the leadership contest to end all leadership contests, he is

besieged again. The party's poll ratings are almost unchanged from 1995. Tory MPs privately agree that constituencies with majorities of 8,000 are now unwinnable at the general election.

At Westminster the party is consumed with the distractions of which Major complained in his speech to Welsh Conservatives yesterday. If anything, his MPs are less disciplined now than before, even with a general election much closer. Many are demob-happy. John Redwood has a spring in his step. No wonder that Major's speech at Porthcawl displayed that half-combative, half-petulant manner which we last heard when he put his job on the line in the Downing Street garden.

The Europhobic wing is more audacious than ever, as Bill Cash and friends showed this week. A line of volunteers from right and left — Dicks, Dykes and the rest — queue to shake the dwindled majority still further. Angry shouts can be heard from Levy Thatcher's locked attic. The whips — toothless bulldozers in the Edgeware case — are as hard-pressed as anyone can recall.

In Parliament, the Government survives largely by having nothing much to do. There are almost no bills going through the Commons. One of the few exceptions, the Family Law Bill, has been rewritten by the Opposition and the Tory Right, yet no one except the Tory Lord Chancellor seems to be very concerned. Real politics is being conducted between consenting adults only in Northern Ireland and in Brussels, but in neither case is the Conservatives' greater glory. The coming fortnight, as Major tries to put the best gloss on events in Florence, threatens to be even more treacherous than the last.

Underlying everything is the Conservatives' continuing failure to dent Labour's new majority, not just its poll majority but its command of the political arena too. The Conservatives have moved to the right for many reasons, and not merely over Europe, but Labour has also succeeded in pushing them and keeping them there. If Major really led the one-nation party to which even the most Europhobe Tories claim to belong, life would be so much easier for him. But he doesn't, and the voters know it, which is an important reason why things continue to be so hard electorally.

British politics therefore offers a curious face to the world. Frantic, often destructive, activity coexists with elongated stasis. Operatic death has nothing on this. Conservative strategy is based on the belief that things can only get better and therefore there will be no election until May 1997. Yet the party's words and actions constantly imply an earlier poll. The disjunction can surely not continue much longer. If it does, the Conservatives may yet be driven to call an election on the basis that things can only get worse.

Logically, therefore, the final frame approaches, in which the Conservatives are actually marmalised and in full view of the voters. Every week that passes without a significant or even a slight shift in their direction in the polls makes this prospect more plausible. The evidence really begins to point to a very strong Labour majority at the next general election.

A LOT of observers see that victory as part of a long-term mould-breaking change in British politics. They assume that Tory disarray of the sort we have seen this week will bring Labour victory, and that Labour's victory will in turn intensify Tory disarray. They go on to argue that the Conservatives will divide over Europe, and that Labour, providing it can govern competently, will create a new political hegemony, with the

Liberal Democrats if necessary, but without them if not. It is a nice neat political syllogism. But it is also naive. Whether it turns out to be true depends upon Labour. But it also exaggerates the uniqueness of what is happening to the Conservatives, overstating the newness of the party's current factionalism, and underestimating its ability to regroup in opposition. Paradoxically, Tory divisions may be less dramatic in opposition than they are in government.

Nothing in the past offers a precise template for anything that will happen in the future. Comparisons which suggest that John Major is the Robert Peel of the modern Tories, and that the party will split into two under his leadership, are silly, superficial and self-important. Insofar as there is a useful analogy from history it is actually with the tariff reform battle in the first decade of the 20th century. But the chief interest of that contest for our times is that the organised fanatic wing of the party (in that case the imperialists, today the Eurosceptics)

could manage only a pyrrhic victory over the pragmatic party establishment. And that was on the basis of a much more ruthless and efficient factional organisation, dedicated to purging the party of free-trader candidates.

Factionalism is endemic not epidemic in Conservative Party history, and loyalty has never been as strong as many pretend. In several respects the current wave of in-fighting is more modest than some episodes in the past and the tricks to which the combatants resort are less dirty. Major does not, I suspect, tap his opponents' phones, as Neville Chamberlain did and his uncle Joseph would have done.

Perhaps Labour's prospective election victory will indeed be a turning-point. That outcome is in Labour's own hands. But Labour should not suppose that it will be kept in power by Conservative disintegration. The Tories have survived worse than this. Labour could face a surprisingly disciplined opposition in the election of 2001.

## American 'pleasure revengers' are sick and tired of clean living and are revelling in being bad, says CAROLINE SULLIVAN

# Eat, drink smoke cigars and make whoopee

WHAT'S for dinner tonight? Something healthy and low-calorie?

Wouldn't you really rather have a cocktail or two, followed by a rib steak cooked in butter, than a nice cigar to round off your meal? That's exactly the sort of indulgent repeat many Americans will be sitting down to tonight. It's not that they haven't absorbed 15 years of warnings about cholesterol and cancer. But in the last year, there has been a small but definite cultural shift. Self-deprivation is out — eating, drinking and smoking back in.

New York trendspotter Faith Popcorn calls it "pleasure revenge". Others just call it a backlash against clean living, or if you want to be fancy, a rejection of political correctness. What is indisputable is that sales of premium cigars have risen by 600 per cent in two years, upscale steakhouse chains have quintupled their revenues and sales of cognac and whisky have increased by up to 30 per cent a year since 1990. Numbers like that represent opportunity, and already plenty of entrepreneurs are catering to pleasure revengers, most of whom have the means to live well. The glossy Cigar Aficionado magazine, launched in 1992, now has a circulation of 400,000. Last month publisher Marvin Shanken paid \$500,000 for JFK's humidifier at the Jackie Onassis auction. And not all cigar aficionados are men; women

are taking to the smelly things in such numbers that restaurants have been holding "women's cigar evenings" at upwards of \$86 per head.

Popcorn — whose company, BrainReserve, tracks trends for corporations like Coca Cola and Polaroid — defines pleasure revenge as "having a drink, eating meat, putting butter on your food and doing it in an in-your-face way — it's a backlash against all the things we've been told to do, which haven't made our lives any better." In her new book, Clicking, she claims that pleasure revenge will become the dominant trend of the nineties.

In other words, why endure the horror of aerobics when you could be eating a cinnamon bun? Why stick to Partier when red wine tastes so much better? And why restrict cigars to new fathers when they are, as Cigar Aficionado's Nicky Singer puts it, "so relaxing and full of joy"? Sylvester Stallone, the model Linda Evangelista and even health fanatics Michael Jackson and Madonna have all been succumbing to the pleasures of a stogie — though not Havanas, which have been illegal in the US under the Cuban embargo since 1962. Fashionable restaurant chain Morton's specialises in slabs of red meat accompanied by fried potatoes and asparagus with hollandaise sauce. One of the most popular steaks on its menu is the 48-ounce porterhouse. Any way you look at it, this is an unhealthy way to eat. Yet business is booming — Morton's is opening its 34th US branch



Full of puff... Vanessa Williams, star of the new Schwarzenegger vehicle Eraser

later this year. "People are simply tired of new reports every day about what's bad for you. We're going full-tilt into the next millennium, and after the power-tripping eighties, people want to relax with a good cigar or a four-course meal," says Morton's spokeswoman, Tina Richardson. One hears the same sentiments time and again. There is a strong feeling of entitlement — "we've worked hard and now we deserve to be cut loose. Forbidden fruits like cigars, alcohol, red meat (and in some circles, cocaine) are the pay-back for years of rice cakes

and recession. This trend is not completely confined to white thirtysomethings. At least one black Chicago jazz club maintains humidors for its clientele, and Candace Bushnell, a Manhattan clubber-cum-journalist, remarks, "at Prayda (a New York youth spot) everyone drinks Martinis and steals the glasses. I'll smoke an occasional cigar myself. I like small Cuban ones — it's not illegal to smoke 'em, just to buy 'em." She goes so far as to choose restaurants on the basis of whether smoking is permitted. Many restaurants in New

York, which has some of the toughest anti-smoking laws in the country, have banned it entirely, while those that permit it must segregate smokers. Places like Morton's comply, but show where their sympathies lie by declaring themselves "cigar-friendly". Interestingly, simpler indulgences like cigarettes and beer are eschewed. It's not that they are not equally unhealthy, but they haven't the status of a \$36 Montecristo, a cigar or a vodka-cranberry Cosmopolitan cocktail, the current "in" tipple. "People want affordable

luxuries," says Juli Falkoff, a director of Hennessy cognac. "When the stock market crashed, there was a lot of deprivation and downsizing, but things feel different now. The eighties were very ostentatious, and it was all designer goods for the sake of it. People feel there has to be value to a

brand. They don't want flash with no substance."

Value and substance are comfortably fifties ideas, and Martinis, steak and cigars are fifties commodities. There is something reassuring about eating and drinking as your parents did on their big nights out.

That said, why cigars? The red meat craze is understandable, being a link to a carefree age when most Americans ate meat daily. The appeal of cognac and fine wine is obvious. But why would anyone want to chew on a fat tube of dried leaves that tastes like "hints of cedar with grassy, woody overtones" (according to Cigar Aficionado's new rival periodical, Smoke)? More to the point, what's the attraction for women?

It's not the first time women have had smelly phallic objects in their mouths that weren't good for their health, says the Guardian's Suzanne Moore. "It's trying to be one of the boys. The public display is like a lot of things women do, like going to see male strippers — it's female bonding, women trying to be outrageous."

Some expertise is required to cut and light a cigar, which may add to the thrill. Hennessy's has published a guide to cigar evenings for restaurant owners, which intimidates instructs: "The goal is to clip off enough of the sealed end to expose some filler leaves, but not so much that the wrapper starts to unravel. One-sixteenth of an inch is the right amount."

Kurt Andersen, editor of New York magazine, divines a political element to cigars. "They're saying, let's be the defiantly anti-green, anti-wet Americans we used to be. No, it's not a backlash against left-wing tyranny — people aren't doing this because they find Hillary Clinton objectionable. They're just saying, 'Screw it, I'll do what I like.'"

The last decade has seen a plethora of contradictory health studies with sacred cows being slaughtered weekly. Margarine, long thought to be healthier than butter, isn't. Wine has suddenly become good for you, especially if you're female, because it may prevent ovarian cancer. On the other hand, it's thought to be a factor in breast cancer. Or is it the other way around? No wonder people have decided to ignore all of it.

When the first dietary warnings emerged in the seventies, Americans responded avidly. Working out and reducing the intake of fat became twin totems — a awareness of health guidelines is now almost universal, even among the 40 per cent who reportedly take no exercise. Trouble started when snack manufacturers discovered how to make fat-free products

that tasted almost as good as the real thing. There was the mistaken assumption that they could be eaten in limitless quantities, which led to people virtually holding up delivery trucks to get Snack-Well Chocolate Fudge Cookies," says William Grimes of the New York Times.

Many fat-free foods are as high in calories as the faithful version, and given the portions Americans favour ("not just double but triple everything," Grimes remarks), it's easy to gain weight on them. Ergo, you might as well have the real thing, which is why products like Ben & Jerry's fudges-cream-ice cream have trampled their sales in six years. Popcorn's book reveals that the fast-food giants' experiments with healthy food have flopped: skin-free Kentucky Fried Chicken was beaten out by Popcorn Chicken, and Los Angeles McDonald's sell 300

### They sweated themselves silly at work and in the gym in the eighties, now they are out to have a bloody good time

Big Macs for every five McLeans. Doctors are not happy. While allowing that "a bit of red meat in moderation is not a bad thing", Dr Thomas Houston of the American Medical Association is concerned about the effects of Luscullian eating and smoking. "This is thought to be a result of extremely aggressive marketing by the cigar and wine industries. Cigars aren't as dangerous as cigarettes, but it's like jumping out of the fifth floor of a building instead of the 20th."

It is tempting to portray all America as engaged in a great-out of the kind not seen since the seventies. Yet every person I spoke to, except Grimes, stressed that they pursued their vices in moderation. No one admitted to having more than one or two cigars a day, a couple of Martinis a night or half a cow a week. And Britain? Pleasure revenge is in its infancy here. There's a peripatetic film club called Cinema Fumee, where smoking is encouraged; a Chelsea restaurant, Monty's, which holds a well-attended Cigar Connoisseur evening once a month and the Chocolate Club, which sells luxury sweets to its 10,000 members. That's it so far — but Faith Popcorn predicts, "It'll happen over there, too. Brits need a break."

## By Order of the British Enigma

B-list toffs and dull celebs. MARY RIDDELL on the dubious honours of the Queen's Birthday list

A HIT or a miss? For a verdict on the Queen's Birthday Honours List, let us turn to Mr David Jacobs.

No, not the one who makes cream crackers. He hosted a show called Juke Box Jury. You remember. Very popular in the sixties. A music programme featuring a song to signify a hit and a hooter to denote a miss. No hooters today, as John Major confers upon Mr Jacobs a belated gong for services to Brylcreem sales or some such thing. Not that one would suggest that he is undeserving of his honour. Indeed, viewed against the rest of the list, his CBE looks well-earned. Had Major plucked a random page out of the Macclesfield telephone directory he could scarcely have come up with a more dreary selection. His list, of course, is supposed to be classless. As he said two years ago, the

whole system was going to change. Right? Conservative Prime Ministers had adapted Euripides' view that high honours were sweet. Under both Thatcher's and Major's leadership, they were sugar lumps to be doled out to assorted Sir Humphrys and those donating millions to party funds.

Not much altered, except now no one wishes to place a bent coin in the central office collecting can, even in return for a one-way ticket to the Lords. So Major has again revised the system. Forget the classless notion and welcome instead the faceless Honours List, full of B-list toffs and rather dreary celebrities. Yan Morrison gets an OBE after singing Northern Ireland's unofficial anthem to Bill Clinton. While his efforts were no doubt easier on the ear than having



Gerry Adams harping on about a new visa, the President would probably have preferred — had their nationality permitted — Dame Barbara Streisand or Madonna. Which brings us on to Beatmania. Thirty years late, Major has discovered

the Fab Four. Under his new Yesterday scheme, anyone connected with the band and of whom no one has heard does well.

George Martin, their producer, tops the list with a knighthood. Dora Bryan — whose song, All I Want For Christmas is a Beetle, was voted (against stiff competition) the best bad record of 1963 — replaces her Juke Box Jury hooter with an OBE.

Give it 25 years, and some future PM will be handing out gongs to Lord Damon of Blur. There is, this time, the occasional highlight. I like the neat inclusion of John McIntosh, the head of the London Oratory School, to which Tony Blair controversially sent his son. Good to know that people are still being rewarded for services (sadly, these days, inadvent ones) to the Conservative Party.

Nice, too, that Judge Stephen Tummim gets a knighthood (although he would probably have felt better rewarded if the Home Secretary had listened to him during his time as chief prisons inspector.)

But the real difficulty lies with a flawed, snobbish, archaic and devalued institution, which bestows high honours, on a buggles turn basis, for those in government and the civil service, while offering up to the rich and throwing a few sops to sports stars and lollipop ladies. On a minor point, I have never quite understood why lollipop ladies should be the great symbol of unsung public service. Why not school dinner ladies? Because, I suppose, there aren't many left after John Major's cuts convailed at their abolition. A technique he would do well to extend to the current honours system.

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Ed Vulliamy 1950

# Testimony for the terrorised

**ED VULLIAMY is one of only two journalists to take the stand in the historic Bosnia war crimes trial at The Hague. He describes his day in court as witness for the prosecution confronting an alleged torturer**

IN THE event, despite months of preparation, it was a scramble to get into court on time. "Brace yourself," said the attorney from out of the blue, "you're on in five minutes."

The previous witness had concluded 24 hours ahead of schedule. So I exchanged a pair of jeans for the attorney's (Armani) suit. He is American and works out waist 30 inches. I'm not and don't; waist 32 inches.

"How's it feel, at such a moment in history?" he asks. "Not comfortable," I reply, before being ushered through a security door into the witness box. In front of a bulletproof glass screen, in the first international war crimes trial since Nuremberg.

Opposite the witness' entrance, between two police officers, sits Bosnian Serb Dusko Tadic, accused of murder, torture and rape in the Omarska concentration camp and others of its kind, and of a pivotal role in the "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims from his home region of Prijedor.

To the right are the prosecution, by whom I am called. To the left, Tadic's defence. This trial — like arguments over intervention in the war itself — is a tussle between the New World and the Old. The prosecution is by three Americans and an Australian. Defending are two British barristers, and a Dutch-Russian.

In front are the judges, a former governor-general of Australia, Sir Ninian Stephen, the Malaysian Lal Chand Vohrah, and the forthright African-American chairwoman of the bench, Gabrielle Kirk McDonald.

The Hague tribunal is a vast, more complex phenomenon than it appears from the formalities. The investigating teams have been brought in from such fields as the US Marines, the Lancashire Constabulary and the federal prosecution team that put away the police officer who beat up Rodney King in Los Angeles.

The gathering of the witnesses is an extraordinary scene. For the first time in the history of international justice, former camp inmates are due in court to see if they can identify their alleged torturer. At a hotel on one of The Hague's arterial roads, they assemble from across the stretched diaspora scattered by Omarska and the other camps in Serbia's gulag.

Many have not met since their days of incarceration, when as captives they suffered conditions of ferocity and abject terror that boggle the mind. Now they greet each other, an exchange of hugs, over breakfasts of fruit and cheese.

There, sipping on coffee, is Dr Azra Blazevic. We last met in the Tropolje concentration camp, where she was helping out in the pathetic medical centre. She and another doctor handed us an undeveloped film which, once processed,

revealed the savage beating of prisoners. Now, the doctor and I can talk generalities, but not about the case.

It is for the terrified, emaciated prisoners, of whom we saw but a few on that putrid day in August 1992, when we stumbled into Omarska and Tropolje, that I am here to testify.

The attorney leading my evidence is Major Michael Keegan of the US Marines. His purpose is to show that the persecution of Muslims around Prijedor was part of an international conflict — not a civil war — so that the charge "grave breaches of the Geneva Convention" apply. The second is to show the pogrom as "widespread and systematic", not some isolated incident, so that

The last tranche of the direct examination concerned a return visit to Omarska earlier this year, in search of those who ran the camp. Guards had said no camp existed there but had declined to give their names because "look what happened to Dule Tadic". At that moment in my evidence the defendant abandoned his usual nonchalance, and picked up his headphones.

Tadic and I had eye-balled each other twice in court. His eyes are dark, sharp, hard and rodent-like. On the first occasion, I turned my gaze away. Second time, more in my stride, I outstared him.

Many colleagues think that to have given evidence is bad professional ethics. Only two journalists have come forward to testify at The Hague. Both are British: Martin Bell of the BBC and myself.

Bell says that the question of whether or not journalists should testify at the war crimes trial is "an argument that can be made convincingly either way — it's purely subjective." I agree.

At The Hague one is simply offering the facts at one's disposal to the court. It is for the judges to decide whether those facts favour the prosecution by which one is called, or indeed the defence, or are of no consequence.

That would be the case in any trial. But at The Hague there is an extra dimension which concerns the difference between "objectivity" and "neutrality", in both journalism and civilised life.

If "objectivity" is to mean that our writing must be fact-specific, then of course we must be objective. But "neutrality" is not the same thing.

At a certain point, the perpetration of atrocity crosses a line, and breaches not only international law but the bases of civilisation. I believe that at Omarska (and elsewhere in Bosnia), that line was crossed, and that to remain "neutral" was not neutrality at all — but rather, complicity.

This is not a matter of being "anti-Serb" or "pro-Muslim". It is a judgment about where one stands between camp guard and inmate, persecutor and persecuted.

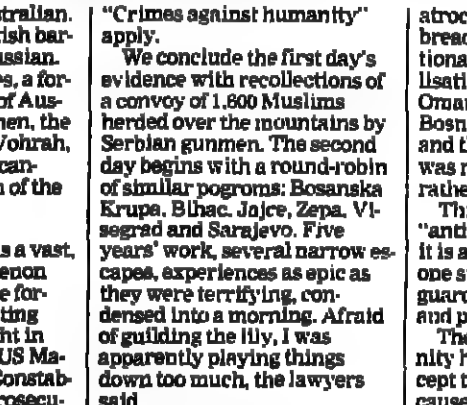
The international community has largely chosen to accept the argument that because atrocities have been committed by all sides in Bosnia, then "neutrality" is acceptable. But this takes no account of the relative scale of atrocities, that the vast majority have been committed by Serbs against Muslims. The CIA puts the percentage ratio at 90 per cent Serbian perpetrators; 8 per cent Croat; 2 per cent Muslim.

The Hague is trying alleged criminals from all three groups, but appropriately, the majority of the accused are Serbs. The fact that the tribunal is doing this, in the wake of the cowardice of the rest of the world, makes The Hague the West's last chance to display any credibility.

Prosecuting at Nuremberg, Sir Hartley Shawcross said the purpose of those trials in 1945 was that such things would never be heard again. He was, as he wrote recently, disappointed. I would have been proud to testify for Sir Hartley against the Nazis as I am to do so at The Hague against those who schooled them with a pale but unmistakable imitation.



Reporter on camera... Ed Vulliamy live on the TV feed from the courtroom which is broadcast daily to Sarajevo



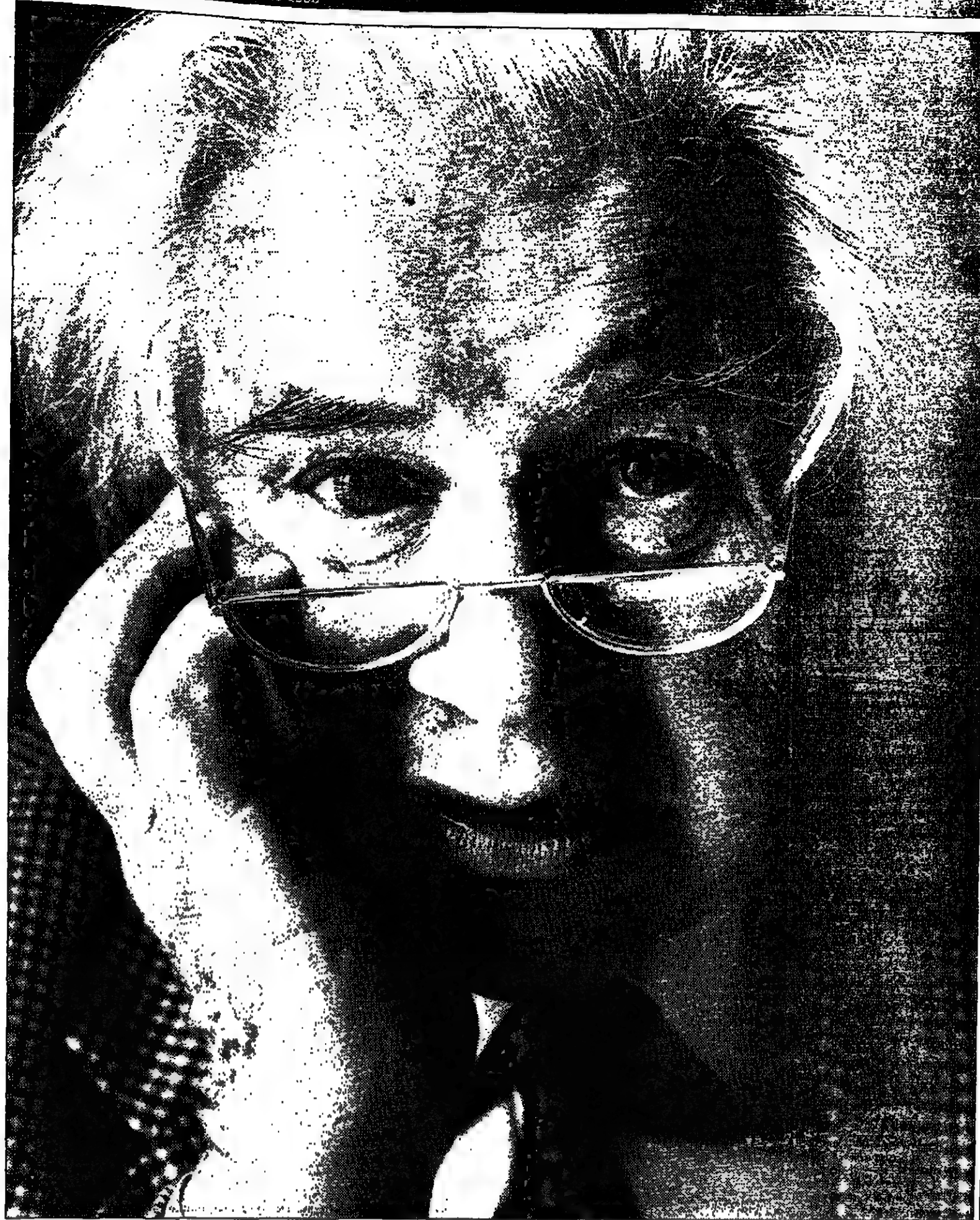
Bosnia War Crimes Trial DIRECT OF JOURNALIST BY PROSECUTION

Crimes against humanity" apply. We conclude the first day's evidence with recollections of a convoy of 1,800 Muslims herded over the mountains by Serbian gunmen. The second day begins with a round-robin of similar pogroms: Bosanska Krupa, Bluzac, Jajce, Zepa, Visegrad and Sarajevo. Five years' work, several narrow escapes, experiences as epic as they were terrifying, condensed into a morning. Afraid of gilding the lily, I was apparently playing things down too much, the lawyers said.

Our tortuous journey to Omarska between July 26 and August 5, 1992 became court record. Meeting Dr Karadzic: a "briefing" in Prijedor with those who ran Omarska and tried to suggest alternative destinations: a mock gun battle faked by our Serbian escort to put us off proceeding, and our final arrival at the back gates of Omarska mine.

I had not seen ITN's "rushes" — the untransmitted footage — of that day, with which the court accompanied my account. I have described the scene a thousand times but it never fades and here it was in vivid detail. The yard drill, the canteen, those spindly fingers, lantern jaws and burning eyes, the guards swinging their guns.

By the time we got to a now infamous shot of the barbed wire at Tropolje, and the emaciated ribcages behind it, I asked if I could switch off my monitor and refer to memory only — those skeletal corpses, talk of massacres at other camps.



Buccaneer of the anecdote... Ustinov loves to lay out his bazaar of stories

PHOTOGRAPH ANDY BAKER

# I just want to be loved by you

Europeans adore Peter Ustinov, but the British still remain cool



The Joanna Coles Interview

HELLO bébé" cries Sir Peter Ustinov across the dining room of the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge, as his wife Hélène sweeps in from Switzerland, her brown neck apparently choked with gold chains. "Bébé, we are on dessert," he continues in an accent that can only be described as pure Poirot, as she sits down and commands a waiter to bring a bleak order of Dover sole with spinach. Rummaging in her bag, she produces an envelope which she pushes across the table. It's an invitation from John Major, demanding the couple's attendance at a Downing Street dinner to mark Ted Heath's 80th birthday. "Oh the 17th, we can't go, I'm performing that night," says Sir Peter unconcerned and stuffing the card back in its envelope. "Perhaps you can change it, get your understudy..." I murmur. "Mais non," scolds Hélène, wagging a magnificently manicured finger. "It's a serious thing at theatre..." "More serious than Downing Street anyway," says Sir Peter, scooping up the last swollen morsel of his summer pudding. "Oh what fun to have lunch with Sir Peter Ustinov. What privilege to sit in such calm splendour and listen as he rambles through his life and other unrelated topics. No need for questions, just the odd nudge as he lays out his bazaar of stories and the neighbouring tables strain to steal every word. A human antenna, he

picks up every twitch and gesture, every accent and reproduces them impeccably. The concierge is addressed in Italian, the maitre'd in French, each waiter spoken to in his native tongue, even when not entirely appropriate. "A pot of lapsang souchong, and you are probably the only person in this room who can pronounce lapsang souchong properly!" he says to the Oriental waiter. "Actually sir, I was born here," replies the waiter. "Oh so was I," says Sir Peter, not missing a beat. "But it's too late to do anything about that now." He was, however, conceived in St Petersburg by a Russian/Italian/Franco mother and a German father which, he claims, has made all the difference. He is a man of many talents and certainly it is hard to think of a British equal. With his two Oscars, three Emmys, 20 plays, three novels, courtier, actor, director, producer, less memoirs, volumes of his story, reels of film and television triumphs, and an inexhaustible gift for chat, he is that most difficult of human beings — un pigeonholeable. Armed with our traditional mistrust of polymaths, British critics claim him the victim of his own versatility; the independent once-asked if he was "too talented for his own good". Needless to say, across the need to categorise, the Europeans adore him. "My last birthday [his 75th] took place in Berlin where I was asked to do a one-man show, to which the President of Germany came... Helmut Schmidt... Václav Havel... I got a mass of telegrams, all the heads of the political parties in Germany came. That part of the world has taken a fancy to me," he says, bewildered rather than boastful. "The fuss made over me was astonishing. Here of course it passed unnoticed — why should it not? Oh, except I got a call from Ted Heath saying 'He folds his arms and goes into a brilliant imitation of Heath! I'm sorry I couldn't come to your birthday. Can you come to mine?'" He continues with a typical Ustinovian non-sequitur. "The

English always say to me, [breaks into emphatic toff voice] 'Yes, but have the Germans got a sense of humour?' Afterwards, when the lights went up, I saw President Herzog and I said 'I must thank you for laughing so heartily.' He replied [breaks into staccato German accent] 'Yes, I love to laugh. But it is always easier when zere iz a pretext!' A buccaneer of the anecdote, Ustinov is clearly saddened by his failure to be taken seriously as a writer here. His last novel, *The Old Man And Mr Smith*, has sold 500,000 copies in Europe — but only 18,000 in Britain. "I've never been let in to the literary top echelons here," he complains. "I've never been criticised properly here. Never! Die Welt gave over two middle pages to the first chapter of my last book. Two pages!"

A human antenna, he picks up every twitch and gesture, every accent and reproduces them impeccably. "Unesco celebrated my 70th birthday in Paris with a fantastic outbreak of stars. Ted Heath came and played For He's A Jolly Good Fellow on a defective piano. Helmut Schmidt played the piano, and Yehudi and Caballé... It was God knows, incredible." He pauses, as if moved by the memory, rather than showing off. "All my children came and I said, 'Sooner or later I must decide what to do with my life.' My son said, 'Quite right. But don't hurry.' Mum, I felt very encouraged by that!" But how does he know all these famous people? "I don't know. They know me." Well, how did he meet Mikhail Gorbachev who he has just referred to twice as a "real friend"? "I met him in Moscow at a

big peace forum. I had a very interesting moment in giving him an honorary degree from Durham [where Ustinov is Chancellor]. He couldn't get to Durham so he decided to receive it in Athens, at what the Greeks called a summit — although it wasn't of course. "Anyway, we had the ceremony... I had hoped it would take place against the background of naked athletes [he picks up a plate and mimes throwing a discus] but it took place in a thirties ballroom, and they couldn't find a way of turning the musak off. So there we were, with the mace all the way from Durham, and all these distant bazookas." "Well I gave him his degree and it had very little press coverage. I then discovered why. With his academic hat on, it covered the birthmark on his head, and nobody knew who the hell he was!" He laughs, his main source of punctuation, and snags a brittle melba toast in half. At the neighbouring table, two waiters give a small bow and with a brisk symmetrical flourish remove two vast silver domes. "Oh I was having lunch with the Canadian Ambassador of Rangoon once when they brought these large domes," says Ustinov, ever ready with the next anecdote. "I said, 'Oh I'm always terrified that one day they'll reveal Bismarck's head!' The ambassador replied: 'Oh, my grandfather! He roars with laughter again then picks up the menu and announces that he's found some wonderful names. "There's that ballet dancer [puts on effeminate accent] Basil Vinigwette. Then there's that American labour leader [puts on deep American accent] Erb Croton..." "Though he is now resident in Switzerland, I wonder how he would vote if he still lived here?" "Liberal Democrat, I could never vote Conservative, they all remind me of school prefects." "I was saying to Ted [Heath] only last night, how there used to be a time when people enjoyed disagreeing, there was a genuine difference between the parties and people enjoyed

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Left to right: A Seated Man With A Stick, attributed to Rembrandt until 1990; the Mona Lisa, stolen, probably recovered; and Vermeer's Girl With A Pearl Earring — suspect, some say

ELMYR DE HORY, a Hungarian art enthusiast, once cooked up what seemed to be the almost-perfect art crime. He would scour antiquarian bookshops for out-of-print art books which he or one of his dealers would buy. Then, choosing to imitate an artist who was well-known but whose history contained a few lost years, he would set about painting a forgery.

# Which is the fake?

Possibly all of them. The Tate Gallery fraud scare has caused collectors to look to their art, says DAN GLAISTER

new documents to give authenticating background information to works that did not exist. One of his accomplices, meanwhile, faked the works, which were then sold to dealers. The fraud was only uncovered when a London-based art dealer bought a Ben Nicholson watercolour for £13,000 in "good faith", and checked the work's history at the Tate.

records. This is not to say that a convincing fraud could be perpetrated, but it might just be enough to con a gullible buyer. And there are plenty of gullible buyers. The Hollywood elite became very nervous in 1969 when Frank De Marigny, dealer to the stars, was revealed to be brazenly selling fakes. His scam was revealed when an undercover policeman walked into his gallery and was offered Renoit's Young Girl With Daisies for \$6 million — the real one was on the wall of New York's Museum of Metropolitan Art.

Young Girl With A Flute, a "fascinating and problematic painting", was listed in the Hague catalogue as "Circle of Johannes Vermeer", and doubts have been raised about Girl With A Pearl Earring. One of the most notorious Vermeer forgers has assumed legendary status. In 1932 Germanman And Lady At A Spinnet, a supposedly lost Vermeer, caused huge excitement. By 1947, 16 more lost Vermeers had popped up, including Christ At Emmaus, hailed in 1937 as the "art find of the century". Collectors scrambled to buy them; among the buyers was Nazi Field Marshal Hermann Goering. After the war, Dutch art dealer Hans van Meegeren was charged with treason for selling the Vermeer to the enemy. His defence was that he had not collaborated, as the Vermeer was a fake. He should know, Van Meegeren told the court, because he painted it, and he proved it by painting another one.

The establishment of the Rembrandt Research Project in 1980 in Holland to separate Rembrandt's paintings from the ones produced by his pupils and followers led to the

Advertisement for 'As You Like It' by William Shakespeare, featuring a photo of Niamh Cusack and Steven Pimlott. Text includes 'An evening of real delight... genuinely enchanting... spectacularly lavish' and 'Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon'.

# Homes are where the heart is

Radio Anne Karpf AFTER THE Frederick West trial, I naively thought that every variant of depravity and misery had been exhausted. Wrong. Radio 4 over the past fortnight has brought us a girl whose mother tried to suffocate her, and another sexually abused by her father and her grandfather.

on the charged subject of problem children? In residential care, comedy is all over ways to re-route their lives. The first programme proposed the hardly novel thesis that persistent young offenders generally become bad as an expression of being sad, on account of their harrowing childhood experiences. Yet it's an indication of how far the Right has commandeered the law and order debate that the programme was irritatingly nervous — people kept breaking in apologetically to say things like "This doesn't excuse his criminal behaviour", as if anyone could possibly have imagined that it did.

Last week's second programme, looking at how three different residential homes operated, was far better and more focused. The first, a therapeutic community in Kent, allows the eight young, highly troubled people in its care to regress so far as the nursery, complete with water-play, rhymes, and tantrums (which are contained by the caring staff) — a red rag to Conservatives, and the kind of thing that gives social work a bad name. Yet it's clearly effective.

thought she'd have had to ask. "What's a barrister?" It's a message that the local authority per child per year; the Kent community knocked them back £73,000, the secure unit £100,000. Allen Ginsberg is the first person I've heard use "audition" to mean "hearing" rather than "trying to get a role". The American poet, who was talking about William Blake coming to him in a vision, is often depicted as a Beat buffoon — all anti-bourgeois theatricality and West Coast soporifics. But his half-hour of With Great Pleasure (Radio 4), was entralling and surprisingly illuminating, read-

incarceration where, six months after trying to burn it down, a young arsonist still hadn't discussed his attempt with his key worker. The programme didn't pass judgment on the homes, but in a neat touch presenter Jenny Cuffe told us what they cost: the local authority per child per year; the Kent community knocked them back £73,000, the secure unit £100,000.

ing the 18th-century poet John Skelton as the first exponent of rap, turning Emily Dickinson into a country and western lyricist, and uncovering coded gay references in Walt Whitman. Only when he got to the end did he come over all simplistic, suggesting the suppression of tenderness as the cause of everything from the CIA to nuclear weapons. Ginsberg is great with a live audience; here he went without because the new With Great Pleasure has none. Though the programme, in which a guest selects favourite readings, could be horribly smug and cosy, when it worked well it was a joy, and one of the few Radio 4 programmes which gave a sense of occasion. But in the new BBC, an outside broadcast clearly costs an unnecessary indulgence.

# You've seen The X Files, now try The ZZZZ Files

Television Stuart Jeffries UNEXPLAINED phenomena. Paranormal activity. Weird stuff. Why was Jack And Jeremy's Real Lives (Channel 4) commissioned? As the slogan says at the start of The X Files, the truth is out there. This week's ill-advised half hour by these over-indulged celebrities was a satire on documentaries about the uncanny. But this wasn't so much The X Files as The ZZZZ Files, a putative comedy whose chief virtue was that Jack Dee at least had the grace to look awkward throughout. Especially when Hardy reprised his execrable impersonation of Jimmy Nail for no defensible reason.

Yale, but frequently at Nowheresville, Utah. Much British humour thrives on embarrassment, but here it was experienced by the viewer rather than used to comic effect. Like wanting to be somewhere else when a stand-up comic falls flat or an actor dries up, this was too painful for entertainment. If there is a purpose in focusing on Jack And Jeremy's Real Lives, it is to note that quality control in the commissioning of television, comedy is all over the place. Dee is a fine stand-up comedian whose routines transferred well to the small screen. No doubt there is pressure to find another format that would make use of his talents, but so far, the only successful one has been his well-executed ads for bitter Friday Night Armistice (BBC2), by contrast, made a

welcome return. Perhaps there is too much reliance on clever-clever editing; there was the Nine O'Clock News where objectivity collapsed into support for Blair "Vote Labour Vote for them. Robin Oakley, BBC News." But anything that can make Michael Buerk look daffier than he does presenting 999 can only be a good thing. We have David Coleman's commentary on the London Marathon grafted on to footage of the State Opening of Parliament to look forward to in a later programme in the series. As most of this topical programme is compiled near broadcast time, a preview of the show was not available. But what a series of sketches for this six-part series shows is that top imaginal homes of Armando Iannucci, David Schneider and Peter Baynham are more twisted than anything dreamt of in Jack and Jeremy's comedy philosophy. But, really, is it necessary to be so nasty about the Queen Mother? Not necessary. But desirable. There's surely no doubt how the pre-match comedy game show Scotland v England

(Channel 4) came to be commissioned. Stuart Cosgrove, Channel 4's controller of arts and entertainment, explained as much in the press release for the show: "Channel 4 broadcasts right across the United Kingdom and has to be imaginative and creative in the way it covers such important events. So 'com Scotland, get stuck in ta' them!" One suspects that it was part of Cosgrove's tartan wish-fulfilment that Scotland won. Scotland managed this even though they were represented by Gordon Kennedy, whose chief comedic achievement is to have presented National Lottery Live; England's ambassador was Nick Hancock, whose chief comedic achievement was to enter the arena in full Boeater regalia accompanied by Morris dancers. He proved funnier, but scored several own goals: notably a clip of an English girl huzzing the virtues of the Bay City Rollers — didn't she realise the Rollers were a Scottish export to corrupt English culture? Which, in turn, was a revenge attack for England inflicting Brentford-born Rod Stewart's ludicrous Scottish affiliations on an innocent.

Advertisement for the film 'FARGO' by Joel and Ethan Coen. Text includes 'A TERRIFIC TWISTED COMEDY', 'A DAZZLING MIX OF WIT AND MALICE', and 'AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU NOW'. Cast list: Frances McDormand, William H. Macy, Steve Buscemi.

# Reviews

## CLASSICAL

Ian Bostridge / Roger Vignoles Wigmore Hall, London THOSE WHO turned up at the Wigmore Hall on Thursday night to hear Joan Rodgers sing a French programme may have been disappointed — she had cancelled at a few days' notice with a throat infection — but they were marvellously compensated. The tenor Ian Bostridge had stepped in as a replacement, and with the pianist Roger Vignoles he delivered an all-Schumann programme of mature musicality and perception. It was Lieder staging of the very highest quality.

## Reviews

Richard, and the Dichterliebe made up the programme, and as always his performances were placed strictly at the service of the music and the texts, without a hint of self-regard. It's rare to find an English singer delving into the texts of these songs as deeply and revealingly as Bostridge does. Not a shade of meaning escapes him; in the Dichterliebe settings, which build up such a macabre sequence of images of love thwarted and unrequited, he registered every emotional twist and stab of pain, sometimes reducing his tone to a thread of sound, sometimes heightening the effect in an almost operatic way. In the Dichterliebe, the ironies that colour almost every song were instantly registered with a concentration that never wavered. His voice is still developing; the lowest register will gain in incisiveness and presence, the very top in body and support. But already he is an exceptional artist, capable of thrilling insights; this was a rare treat. Andrew Clements

## JAZZ

### Hession / Wilkinson / Fell Club Orange, London

IF EVER there was a free music diametrically opposed to the ruminative, suck-it-very-slowly-and-see school of improvisation, it's the output of the fearless British trio of saxophonist Alan Wilkinson, bassist Simon Fell and drummer Hession. Playing with the inventive Boston-based guitarist Joe Morris, they last night finished a three-gig tour taking in London, Halifax and Leeds. At the Club Orange at Kentish Town's Dolby Fosses' pub, they delivered spontaneous music of a scorching and unrelenting intensity that on a warm night might have led the management to contemplate summoning the fire brigade to hose down both practitioners and audience. Morris, an impressionistic and independent guitarist whose music was once described as sounding like Albert Ayler as played by Grant Green, welcomed the opportunity of working with the trio, and though the sympathy between them was possibly shared more equitably in the first set (by the second the collective heat generated by the British players was such as to

induce the guitarist to step aside from it, as if for protection), it was conversational music of the most intuitive eloquence, enthusiastically sensed by the crowd. The set began quietly enough, with Morris improvising, wringing high register figures on his own, the guitar sounding like Evan Parker's soprano sax. Then Hession's drums expanded behind him, a gathering tempest of metallic snare-drum rolls and urgent rimshots, while Wilkinson on baritone saxophone contented himself with a supporting role of squawky fills and riffs. After a drums / bass exchange in which Fell (a classically trained performer with a percussive sound and an unquenchable energy) unaccompanied Hession with both drat, pluck arco sonorities and jackhammer percussive sounds of his own, Wilkinson returned on alto sax and mixed guitar with Evan Parker-like bluntness with sweeping long lines. But in the midst of all this flamethrowing abstraction they suddenly dropped into a purposeful walking bebop episode, and just as abruptly walked out of it again. There probably isn't such a thing as state-of-the-art free music, but as a term of convenient endearment, it's close enough. John Fordham

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. Text includes 'With Verdi rampant in the centenary of his death MARY JANE PHILLIPS-MATZ looks at the composer's life, rooted in continuity and filled with generosity', 'A pri hero our t', and 'Antiquarian Bindings PBA London Antiquarian Book Fairs June 1992 Hotel Festival Russe'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.



With Verdi mania rampant in the run-up to the centenary of his death MARY JANE PHILLIPS-MATZ looks at the composer's life, rooted in continuity and filled with generosity



The life and the legend... Verdi in 1866, left; his home in Roncole, and, top, busts in Busseto

# A private hero for our time

THE GRAND span of Verdi's professional life as a composer, reaching from 1839 to 1893, and from *Oberto*, *corsa di San Bonifacio* to *Falstaff* was extraordinary in a century when life expectancy for most people was tragically short. But quite beyond that accomplishment was the reach of his whole life, which covered nearly a century.

Born in 1813, he lived through the Napoleonic Wars in the Duchy of Parma, when looting Austrian and Russian troops swept through his native village on their way to the battle of the Taro. As a child he survived smallpox, as an adult he managed to escape malaria, the plague of the Po Valley, and was spared in the cholera epidemics that swept the continent in his time.

He remained in Parma during the Revolution of 1848 and returned on it to friends and colleagues. During the Italian War of Independence in 1859, he stubbornly refused to seek safety in Genoa and stood fast in his villa near the Po even when Austrian troops were marching within sight on both sides of the river. In the unification of Italy, he was an important figure.

Verdi even lived long enough to greet the new century, although he was pessimistic about what it would bring. When he died in January 1901 he was honoured as a national hero and a much-decorated international celebrity.

The burst of activity between the age of 28 and 39 left us with a huge body of work that has remained in the operatic repertory and extends far beyond it. His music is heard everywhere, played on and off the stage and used on the soundtracks of dozens of television commercials all over the world.

In his own time, it became the common musical currency as it was played in cities and towns on street-organs and by brass bands in private homes, amateur players or sang arrangements of his most popular pieces, even as societies of local music lovers popularised his works in those small, salon concerts called *Accademie*.

est operatic successes of all time, making him famous almost overnight and holding the stage at La Scala for one of the longest runs in the history of that house.

In 1843, he presented *I Lombardi alla Prima Crociata* in the same theatre, following it with *Ernani* (Teatro La Fenice, Venice) and *I due Foscari* (Teatro Argentina, Rome), both in 1844. In 1845, Verdi gave *Giovanna d'Arco* (La Scala) and *Alzira* (Teatro San Carlo, Naples). In 1846, he returned to Venice with *Attila*.

His groundbreaking *Macbeth* was premiered in 1847 (Teatro della Pergola, Florence) and followed within four months by *Il Masnadieri* (Her Majesty's Theatre, London). Four months later Verdi gave *Jerusalem*, his extensive reworking of *Lombardi*, at the Paris Opera. In 1848 came *Il Corsaro* (Teatro Grande, Trieste); in 1848, *La Battaglia di Legnano* (Argentina, Rome) and *Luisa Miller* (Teatro San Carlo, Naples); in 1850, *Stiffelio* (Teatro Grande, Trieste); in 1851, *Rigoletto* (La Fenice, Venice); and in 1853, *Il Trovatore* (Teatro Apollo, Rome) and *La Traviata* (La Fenice, Venice).

After 1853 Verdi's pace slowed somewhat. In the years between 1855 and 1866, he composed eight more operas, from *Les Vêpres Siciliennes* to his last work, *Falstaff*. Among them are *Simon Boccanegra*, *Un Ballo in maschera*, *La Forza del destino*, *Don Carlos*, *Aida*, and *Otello*—almost all repertory staples. He also revised pieces and composed songs, a string quartet, and several religious works, including the mighty *Messa di Requiem*.

ONLY a few years ago, the names of some of Verdi's works meant little or, indeed, nothing to the general public because they were given rarely or not at all. But the surge of interest has made possible a kind of "Verdi industry" that has taken on a life of its own. Now we have Verdi congresses, conferences, broadcasts and telecasts of individual works, publications, feature films in large theatres and biographical series on the small screens, study institutes and Verdi societies ("Friends of Verdi",

"Amici di Verdi", Verdi choral groups). As the centenary of his death approaches, whole festivals are dedicated to his works. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, has programmed one while on the other side of the Atlantic, Vincent La Scala conducts the forces of the New York Grand Opera in giving all the operas in chronological order in Central Park. In Sarasota, Victor De Renzi attracts fans from all over the world to his productions which are often accompanied by Verdi congresses.

Analysis, revision, and deconstruction in thought and in staging has reached the point where some Verdi operas would be unrecognisable if we "saw" them without being able to hear the music. Recent settings of *Rigoletto*, might well be mob-boss movies where good guys and bad are engaged in street war. In a planned vendetta, the hapless and unintended victim is a young girl, who is a corpse in a garbage bag at the end. What did you say? Well, it happens all the time.

If Verdi had not written a final dust for father and daughter, Gilda might well have been fitted with "cement boots" and tossed in the river. Is this really *Rigoletto*? Who would know? It could just as easily be the life of John Gotti or Al Capone.

Verdi's huge estate, the Villa Verdi, at the edge of the nearby village of Sant'Agata, was his principal residence from 1851 until his death—almost exactly 50 years. Several rooms of his large, comfortable country house are open to visitors, who now come in such crowds that a former hayfield has been turned into a parking lot. The composer's original holding here, acquired in May 1848, was a small farmhouse with fields and tenant houses around it, bought from his brother-in-law. Verdi moved here on May 1, 1851, with Giuseppe Strepponi, whom he married in 1859. As his fortune grew, fed by royalties, commissions for new works,

and fees for re-staging his older operas, he would buy one adjacent property after another, until it became one of the largest estates in the area. He was still adding to it in 1885. He also remodelled the house several times.

Surrounding Verdi's house is the garden he so loved, for which he ordered hundreds of trees, year after year. One purchase list begins with "120 plane trees, 6 larches, 6 junipers", and continues through dozens of items, including "1 giant sequoia" almost 40 hollow trees and scores of exotic and common trees and shrubs. Towering magnolias guard the house on both sides.

The small lake he had dug still lies beside his quaint grotto; his rustic bridge crosses it and leads to the magnificent line of trees (planned as per his order) that divides the field behind the house. Near the main house is the little brick building where he housed the coal-powered pump he ordered from England, so he could water the garden. Behind the main property is his heartbreakingly beautiful mill at Castelazzo, still standing watch over the canal that irrigated his fields.

Some of this might have been lost, had he not explicitly provided for it in his will: "I place upon my heir the duty of keeping the garden and my house at Sant'Agata exactly as they are now. This duty also extends to her heirs." With these two simple sentences, Verdi gives us a clue to that inner self he strove so hard to hide: at his core is a love of continuity; and the prodigious boy-organist of Roncole is one and the same as the protégé of the Busseto amateurs' Philharmonic Society and the Grand Old Man of La Scala.

His last known notes of music were a sketch for a prayer, written by the widowed Queen of Italy after the assassination of the King. The farmer of Sant'Agata is the grandson of an eagle: Giuseppe Verdi of Sant'Agata, who left there at the end of the 1700s for Roncole, and the descendant of other Verdis who lived there in the 1500s and 1600s.

The farm that became Villa Verdi had originally been the original purchase, he bought back all the little farms that the earlier Verdis had once occupied at Sant'Agata, going back through the centuries. Among these is the house of his great-grandmother; the present owner is the direct descendant of Basilio Pizzolo, one of Verdi's chief gardeners, who is named in his will. Quite apart from his love for continuity, there is the matter of Verdi's generosity, for his record of philanthropy—much of it donated anonymously through third parties—is perhaps without parallel among musicians. Small and large gifts of money were made over decades.

HE BOUGHT 100 pairs of shoes so that the children of peasant families could attend school; he paid fees for wet nurses for poor farm women and founded or built or supported hospitals, nursery schools, circulating libraries, and illiteracy programmes. He "made work" for his tenant farmers when there was none, by rebuilding houses and barns; as his garden pay-books show, he paid his 11 or 13 gardeners even in the winter.

From my village, no one emigrated," he boasted, at the height of the mass movement that sent hundreds of thousands of Italians to risk new lives in foreign lands. Verdi also gave money for scholarships and saved his publisher from ruin with loans and money gifts.

At the end of his life, of course, he built the hospital at Villanova sull'Arda, just beyond his estate on the road to



Mary Jane Phillips-Matz is the author of Verdi, a biography, (published by Oxford University Press in 1993). The paperback edition is due out in September. She is a co-founder of the American Institute for Verdi Studies at New York University and has been general manager and a fund raiser for the Spoleto Festival. Since 1976 she has spent part of every year in Busseto, where Verdi went to school. The Royal Opera House's Verdi Festival runs until July 20. It began this week with Don Carlos, starring Karita Mattila, right, and Nabucco, which continues in the repertoire. Still to come: Giovanna d'Arco, La traviata, and concert performances of Il Corsaro, Alzira and Don Carlos (details 0171 304 4000). La traviata is being relayed on the big screen in Covent Garden Piazza on July 15 and 18. Radio 3 is broadcasting Il Corsaro, June 21; Don Carlos, June 22; Giovanna d'Arco, July 5; Nabucco, July 6; Alzira, July 13; La traviata, July 15; and Don Carlos live from the Proms on July 20. An exhibition, *Verdi in Milan*, is at the Theatre Museum, Russell Street, Covent Garden, until October 30 (every day except Mondays, 11am to 7pm; admission £3.50, concessions £2).

Cremona, and founded the Casa di Riposo, his home for poor, old musicians. Both of these institutions are still open and functioning thanks to the endowments he left in his will for them and many schools, hospitals, foundations and scholarships he founded. He left bequests to his heir (who was also his foster daughter and second cousin, Filomena Maria Verdi) and to his other cousins on both his father's and his mother's sides of the family; he provided for his servants; he left bequests of money to help the poor of Roncole and Sant'Agata pay their annual rents on November 11. As for the Casa di Riposo, Verdi requested that he and his wife be buried in its little chapel, near the destitute musicians who were his "guests", as he called them. His last wish was for an "extremely modest" funeral, at dawn or in the evening, with "no singing and no music" to be played. "I do not want any of the usual rites after my death," he wrote at the end of his will. This request was perhaps carried out "to the letter" when a very brief rite (without music) was at the behest of the Church of San Marco in Milan immediately after his death in January 1901. He was buried beside his wife in the Monumental Cemetery in Milan, but it was only a temporary interment, for as soon as the chapel in the Casa di Riposo was ready, Italy gave Verdi a funeral worthy of a king.

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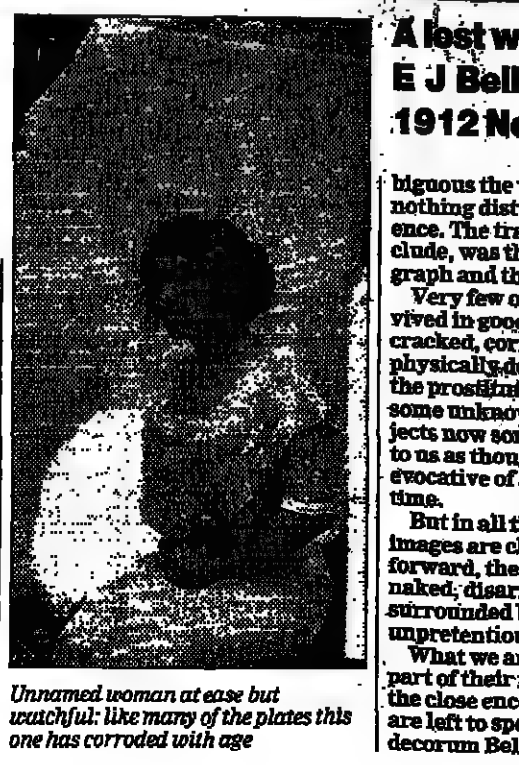
## Living the blues in black and white

**B**ELLOCC'S remarkable photographs of prostitutes around the year 1912 in a brothel in Storyville, the red light district of New Orleans, are all that survives of his life's work. They arouse an appetite, so to speak, that can probably never be satisfied. Who was he? What else did he do? What kind of life did he lead?

The details are fragmentary. Contemporaries recalled that he was very short, around five feet, that he was hydrocephalic (or as one put it, "A water head. You know, one of them high heads.") The temptation is to see him as a kind of Toulouse-Lautrec of the camera. It's known that he did some commercial work, all lost, and that he took pictures of the opium dens of the Chinatown quarter of New Orleans which have also disappeared. Those who saw these photographs were astonished by the revelation of what they had thought of as a tightly closed world.

What was it about E J Bellocq that gave him this close access? Was it perhaps that his extraordinary appearance, his mark of the outsider and the loner, made him acceptable in societies of outsiders? Discussion of Bellocq and his work necessarily proceeds through a string of questions.

His easy relationship with the women in the brothel is evident from his photographs. There is about all of them an air of relaxation. If Bellocq's motives in making these photographs were am-



Unnamed woman at ease but watchful: like many of the plates this one has corroded with age

## A lost world recorded by a lost observer - E J Bellocq's photographs of prostitutes in 1912 New Orleans. IAN MAYES is intrigued

biguous the women clearly found nothing disturbing in his presence. The transaction, you conclude, was the taking of the photograph and that was it.

Very few of the plates have survived in good condition. Some are cracked, corroded or have been physically defaced, the heads of the prostitutes scratched out by some unknown hand. So the subjects now sometimes appear to us as though through a gauze, evocative of a lost world, a lost time.

But in all the photographs the images are clear and straightforward, the women, clothed or naked, disarming themselves surrounded by the trappings of an unpretentious domesticity. What we are shown is at least part of their reality. The odour of the close encounters is absent. We are left to speculate whether the decorum Bellocq discovered ex-

tended to the rumpled bed. It probably didn't. A couple of the prostitutes are masked, hinting at demands on the edge of squalor.

Bellocq seems to have had an interest in these women as individuals. They appear to have presented themselves to him in a manner of their own choosing. If one were making comparisons it wouldn't be with Toulouse-Lautrec but more with the intimate view of Bonnard. For a moment the fray of the street is at bay, the pressures of commerce have passed, and Bellocq's friends are shown, quietly delighted to have rediscovered themselves.

*Bellocq's photographs from Storyville, reproduced from prints made by Lee Eysterlander, with an introduction by Susan Sartag and interviews edited by John Szarkowski, is published by Jonathan Cape at £50*







# Money Guardian

## Getting in the right gear to head out on the highway

As new laws to restrict the size of motorbikes novices can ride are introduced, CLIFF JONES gives a guide to getting out on the road

**N**EW legislation emanating from Brussels is going to make it harder for motorcycle learners to get on their bikes. From January 1997, new laws on road tests mean it will be more expensive to head out on the highway, and younger riders will have to look for adventure on smaller machines.

All tests since 1990 have consisted of two parts, starting with compulsory basic training (CBT). This allows learners to ride any bike with an engine no larger than 125cc. They must then pass the Driving Standards Agency test, after which they can buy the biggest and fastest bike they can afford.

However, from January 1997 new European laws will limit riders who are younger than 21 to 125cc machines for two years. Older riders who pass their CBT will have to take their DSA test on a machine of at least 47 horsepower if they want to ride more powerful bikes.

The catch for older riders is that they cannot ride the more powerful bikes to the test centre and will have to rent a motorcycle from the riding school until they pass their test. If they pass their second test on a less powerful bike, they will be limited to the smaller bikes for two years.

According to Richard Beardwell, an instructor at the Romford branch of CSM Rider Training, the UK's largest network of biking schools, people are rushing to beat the new legislation. He said: "We are busier now than we have been in a while. We get lawyers and bankers and older riders in their fifties who don't want to

### Tele-finance

In a separate supplement, Money Guardian today takes an extensive look at finance-over-the-phone. Don't miss our eight-page pull-out.

ride small bikes but would feel more comfortable passing their test on one.

New bikes can be expensive, but they are cheaper and more economical to run than cars. An average 500cc machine will manage 50 miles per gallon, compared to 36.7 mpg for the cheapest Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i.

Road tax for a car costs £130 a year compared to £55 for a motorcycle above 250cc. Tax on smaller bikes is £35 a year. An intensive course at CSM Rider Training costs £455, including test fee and bike rental. BSM driving schools charge £561.98 for a full course of lessons.

Insurances can be expensive for young riders. Norwich Union, which insures two thirds of all bikes in the UK, quotes £84.37 for third-party cover only for a 24-year-old man riding a medium-powered bike in London. A more experienced rider, such as a 30-year-old man or woman living in Cardiff with three years' no claims, could insure the same bike for £371.81 on a fully comprehensive policy. Third party, fire and theft would cost £202.17 and both policies carry a £150 excess clause.

Many would-be bikers are put off by the cost of the clothing and safety equipment. As with most sports, biking gear

is expensive, but commuters and weekend riders do not need to spend large amounts of money to be safe and comfortable.

The law requires all riders to wear a helmet, which must be constructed to British Standard and bear the kitemark. These cost anything from £60 to £500, but sales assistants are usually honest and will not tend to persuade new bikers to buy the most expensive. Beginners can buy a medium range safety type-A helmet for £140 which is both warm and comfortable. Customers should also remember that the toughest helmet will be useless if it does not fit properly or the chin strap is loose.

Jackets start at £129 and go up to ridiculous prices, beyond £500. Unless you are entering the Isle of Man TT race or a fashion contest, you will not need to pay more than £300. A man's leather blouson is better than nothing but is not very protective. A reasonable jacket, with good padding around the arms and protection in the back, will cost under £200. Many riders favour denim jeans rather than pay from £100 for leather trousers.

Jo Kilby, Clothing Manager for the Finsbury Park branch of Motorcycle City, believes this is false economy. She says: "People kit themselves out in the right gear but forget their legs. This is reflected in the fact that 70 per cent of injuries are below the waist. With a rough road surface, denim will shred to pieces." Gloves cost an average £30 and boots around £70.

The British weather might put some off, but not people like CSM's Richard Beardwell. What's the best thing about biking? "Freedom," he says triumphantly. "I can go where I want, when I want. As long as I wear the right gear on a good bike, I will be warm, safe and free."

Money Guardian is edited by Margaret Hughes



Power dressing... Safety and comfort are the twin essentials PHOTOGRAPH DAVID MANSELL

## Fruit stall pricing for package trips leaves sour taste

Teresa Hunter

**T**RAVEL companies came under fire yesterday for operating a "fluid" pricing system, which could mean that every holidaymaker on a package paid a different price for the trip.

Thomson Holidays introduced "fluid" pricing late last year in an attempt to boost early bookings for this season. Other companies followed, leading in some cases to illegal massaging of holiday prices. Fluid pricing means that customers will not necessarily pay the price they see in the brochure for their chosen holiday. The price will be fixed according to the supply and demand for your favoured package on the day you book.

Thomson is clear that no holidaymaker will pay a higher price than that stated in its range of brochures operating fluid pricing, which include Horizon Summer Selection, Price Breakers, Summer Sun and Sky Tours.

**A** THOMSON spokesman explained: "The brochure price shows the highest price you will pay. But we wanted to give discounts to people who booked early, and this is a way of cutting their holiday price by up to £100."

"If they book well ahead of their departure on a day when demand for their holiday is low, then they will receive a full discount. But the discount will change each day depending on demand and availability."

The Institute of Trading Standards has attacked the scheme as confusing, and predicted that even where it is operating within the law customers will eventually become disgruntled.

The Institute's chief executive, Alan Street, explained: "We believe customers should always be

given clear information about the price of anything they are going to buy. If a holiday firm is prepared to sell a package for £200, then that should be the price in the brochure - not £300."

"Customers also need to be confident that when they get information from a travel agent about a holiday, the price will be the same when they come in the following week to book it."

The Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) is also concerned about the scheme, because it believes there have been instances of companies charging a higher price than in the brochure.

An Abta spokesman said: "If anyone is charged a higher price than is stated in the brochure, then that is clearly against the law."

"However, we have no problem with the concept of fluid pricing in itself. If you go out to buy apples today, you may have to pay more or less than you did last Saturday, depending on the supply and demand - and next week the price will be different again. No one has any problems with that - so why with holidays?"

Mr Street stressed that his institute would take action against any company breaching the law by charging a higher price than that in the brochure, but he predicted that eventually customers would become disenchanted with the system.

A flood of "free" holiday offers from the Florida Travel Network, and other cheap US travel deals, led Abta to join the Advertising Standards Authority yesterday in warning consumers not to be taken in.

The ASA warned earlier in the week that many of the promises made in the advertising literature were unfounded.

Recipients were assured, for example, that the holidays were fully bonded, when UK holidaymakers were not covered.

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Source: Union Bank of Switzerland.

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# Gas turns heat on regulator



Firm stand... chief executive Phillip Rogerson rejects Ofgas recommendations. "We can't run this business with a workforce of 10,000." PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JONES

MMC inquiry likely in price curbs dispute as company rejects pipeline controls and accuses Ofgas of demanding drastic cut in safety spending

Simon Beavis  
Industrial Editor

**B**RITISH Gas yesterday accused its regulator of demanding cuts of up to 50 per cent in spending on safety as the bitter war of words between the two sides over new price curbs looked to be heading for a showdown at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The privatised company formally rejected proposals for new controls on its TransCo pipelines business and directors made it clear that they wanted to see the

price curbs substantially watered down to avoid an MMC enquiry.

Ofgas has argued that its call for charges to be cut by between 20 and 28 per cent next year could reduce bills by up to £30 a year and has warned that the MMC could be even tougher on Transco.

British Gas rejected the recommendations when they were first published a month ago, warning they would jeopardise safety and could cost up to 10,000 jobs.

Yesterday it produced a document to support its case that the controls were "unprecedentedly harsh".

Directors said that Ofgas

had not disclosed vital research by outside consultants, including accountants Coopers & Lybrand, used to back the regulator's demands.

But it said it had been provided with forecasts from Clare Spottiswoode, the director general of gas supply, of how operating costs could be cut including reductions in safety spending.

Chief executive Phillip Rogerson said that Ofgas was recommending almost halving the £140 million a year being spent on the emergency service operation, which employs 3,800. "Ofgas are looking for some significant reductions in safety-related costs,"

He insisted that the row did not have to be settled in an MMC inquiry in what would be the third major monopolies investigation in the company since its privatisation in 1986.

But, Mr Rogerson added: "I accept we have a very strong case and we are prepared to take it to the MMC if that is where we have to go."

He argued that the proposals contained serious errors, inconsistencies and omissions and were based on a false assumption that shareholders had fared better than customers since privatisation.

Mr Rogerson insisted that the cuts would reduce Trans-

co's profits by at least £500 million before the end of the price control period in 2002.

Despite widespread criticism, British Gas refused to recant on its claims that it would have to cut its 30,000 workforce in half to meet the rigours of the new controls and face disastrous consequences. "We can't run this business with a workforce of 10,000," he said.

Ofgas later refused to comment on the claims, but confirmed that it was refusing to disclose some of its independent advice. Ms Spottiswoode has made it clear that all relevant documents would be made available to the MMC

should the battle end up being settled there.

The regulator will respond formally to British Gas in early July and then bring forward final recommendations. The matter could be referred to MMC a month later if the two sides fail to agree.

The company's other watchdog, the Gas Consumers Council, urged both sides to reach a negotiated settlement, but conceded hopes of a deal looked unlikely.

GCC director Ian Powe said: "We see little chance that the new arguments will persuade the regulator to reconsider. Sadly, MMC arbitration looks inevitable."

## Saturday Notebook

### Sumitomo: a very modern scandal



Alex Brummer

**A**LTHOUGH the origins of the enormous near-£2.5 billion trading loss at Sumitomo Corporation date back a decade, it is very much a scandal of the 1990s in the tradition of those at Barings and Daiwa. The abuses of the extravagant 1990s, such as Guinness and Blue Arrow, were largely the product of frothy equity markets and generally represented attempts to secure success in takeovers or share offerings by hidden share support operations.

Those of the current decade, from Barings to Sumitomo, stem from the globalisation of financial markets and the spread of over-the-counter derivatives transactions which are not notoriously difficult to regulate.

Globalised financial and commodity markets have brought enormous benefits for end-users — be they an electronics group buying copper for its circuit boards, or a bank hedging its foreign exchange operations. The markets have become more efficient, the cost of using them has generally fallen and if internal controls and regulation are good enough, risk levels should be kept down.

In addition, markets like the London Metal Exchange, arguably the biggest market for copper and tin in the world, have been important job creators and — on paper at least — huge earners for the City of London. However, in the light of the Sumitomo Corporation affair, senior City regulators — disturbed by the abnormal trading practices found on the LME — are beginning to question whether the contribution which it makes to the City's earnings justifies the colossal regulatory effort involved in policing it.

There are a number of concerns about the LME: the most significant of which appears to be the increasing use in recent years of over-the-counter contracts. Such personalised dealings, conducted off the floor of regulated marketplaces, are subject to minimum disclosure requirements and extraordinarily difficult to monitor.

The way in which the Sumitomo Corporation has presented its phenomenal losses in the copper market is in the tradition of Barings and Daiwa, where the deficit has eventually been put down to desperate activities of a lone trader which is always easier for the authorities to deal with.

This time, however, matters look rather more complicated. In the first instance, the unauthorised dealings have taken place over a much longer period in a marketplace which is relatively unregulated and more volatile. Second, they were discovered not as a result of internal audits or mechanisms in the institution concerned — as eventually was the case when Barings ran out of funds — but through slow, methodical and legally circumscribed monitoring by the main authority in London, the Securities & Futures Authority, currently headed by a senior City of London figure Nick Durlacher, of Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

As part of its normal regulation over two to three years, the SFA has been monitoring the affairs of the Winchester Group, one of the most influential and profitable players on the LME. It was through this monitoring process that the SFA was first alerted to potential problems concerning trading by the Sumitomo Corporation. The jurisdiction of the SFA being confined to the licensing of individual dealers and firms on the London exchanges, it contacted the Securities & Investment Board, London's regulator of regulators.

The board, in turn, has been working with the authorities in the United States, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission in Japan and in Guernsey where some offshore commodity outfits have been based. This sharing of information became more intense in recent months as the possibility of unauthorised trading by Sumitomo Corporation became plain.

By comparison with the UK's handling of some earlier financial scandals, from BCCI to Barings, this appears to have been a fairly effective operation. However, there have been some flaws and weaknesses. As the Guardian reports today, the LME was this information was passed to the appropriate authorities, although as far as can be determined the intense investigations into Sumitomo were not fully under way until two or three months ago. This suggests that the LME's monitoring systems were not sharp enough and that the UK regulators acted with the speed which might have enabled the eventual losses — now the largest among the recent globalised scandals — to have been capped.

Among the problems which the lead UK regulators in this case, the SFA, is understood to have encountered have been legal. The practitioner-led, self-regulatory system in the City makes it possible for entities under scrutiny to place legal obstacles in the way of regulators. Similarly, constrained media coverage — as was seen in the Maxwell case — can slow the process of disclosure and inquiry.

Clearly, natural justice requires that the targets of inquiry have available to them full due process. However, in the London self-regulatory system those who are targets of investigation appear to hold many of the cards. In the US system, the more formalised powers of the SEC and CFTC and US bank regulators give them greater reach when an inquiry is under way.

An encouraging aspect of the Sumitomo affair is that unlike Barings, when the UK and Singapore found themselves at loggerheads, the system of global co-operation appears eventually to have worked in this case, although there are still many loose ends.

However, with each scandal in the world of globalised trading, the losses appear to be coming larger and the risk of systemic problems — quite high in the case of a single commodity like copper — become greater. The trade-off between free, open and global markets and more intrusive regulation is starting to swing back to those who would impose stricter controls.

## Somerfield to debut with £500m price tag

Pauline Springett

**S**OMERFIELD, the supermarket group previously known as Gateway, is to float on the Stock Exchange next month with a price tag of about £500 million.

Chief executive David Simons, his five fellow directors plus an unspecified number of other managerial staff, are expected to share a bonus in excess of £5 million on the flotation. The exact sum will depend on how much the flotation raises, although it is understood that Mr Simons himself could be in line to receive more than £2 million.

Details of the allocation formula are expected in the prospectus, which will be issued in the middle of next month. A Somerfield spokeswoman said that Mr Simons was planning to plough back "a substantial sum" into the business after flotation.

Somerfield is currently wholly owned by the debt-laden Isoceles group. The whole of Somerfield will be floated, with 80 per cent of the shares to be held by institutions and the rest to retail investors.

Somerfield, which is ring-fenced from Isoceles, has debts of around £400 million. It is expected that all of this, which is owed to about 30 banks, will be repaid by the flotation proceeds. The balance will go towards repaying some of Isoceles' £800 million debt.

Somerfield is the fifth largest supermarket chain in the UK, with 600 stores nationwide. It is expected to report a 30 per cent rise in operating profits to £85 million for the year to April.

The Isoceles saga was a typical cautionary tale from

the 1990s. Isoceles bought Gateway in 1989 for £2.1 billion in the UK's largest ever leveraged buy-out deal. But the acquisition only went ahead after a hostile takeover battle which pushed the price up.

Despite a quick sale of some of the Gateway stores to Asda for £800 million, it was immediately apparent that Isoceles had taken on too much debt and two refinancings swiftly followed.

Then, in 1993, Mr Simons, the former finance director of Storehouse, took on the task of turning around Somerfield. A fresh refinancing was soon in place and Mr Simons indicated that a 1998 flotation of Somerfield was likely.

Recently, it had become clear that the timetable had been sharply accelerated, possibly because of a reluctance to leave the flotation until after the general election.

As managing director of public services and infrastructure, Mr Hogg will oversee a new equity fund of up to £125 million to be invested in PFI and infrastructure projects in the UK and internationally. It is believed to be the biggest sum set aside by a financial institution in this way.

The move by CIBC marks a departure in the involvement of leading financial institutions in the PFI. The initiative, established by the Government as central in its drive to reduce public expenditure and transfer risk to the private sector for projects ranging from the high-speed rail link to hospitals, has been dogged by criticism since its inception.

It failed to live up to private sector expectations of extra money for capital projects and was perceived to be over-

## Private Finance Initiative loses chief but gains ally

Sarah Ryle

**T**HE Government's Private Finance Initiative yesterday lost its chief official but stands to gain from a £125 million fund being set aside by Canadian investment bank CIBC as a result of the move.

Douglas Hogg, now joint head of the Treasury's Private Finance Unit, has nursed the initiative through its most difficult days since 1987 when he joined the embryonic Private Finance Panel on loan from Eurotunnel.

He has accumulated detailed knowledge of the PFI as the panel's longest-serving member. This will be relevant to his new job at CIBC Wood Gundy, umbrella for the bank's international investment banking, capital markets and credit services.

loaded with red tape. Private sector concerns proved to be one of the unexpected hurdles that the PFI had to overcome, Mr Hogg said.

He believed his move would benefit the PFI: "Everyone is delighted that I'm staying in PFI and will help now from the other side of the fence."

Mr Hogg, who was involved in assembling Eurotunnel's debt and equity funding in 1987, was seconded to the Private Finance Panel for only 18 months. He was appointed head of the Treasury unit in September last year. Peter Monmouth, who became joint head in January this year, will assume full responsibility for the unit from this month.

The panel advertised for a chief executive this week and, although Mr Hogg leaves Eurotunnel this month, the panel will employ him until his replacement is appointed.

There are a number of concerns about the LME: the most significant of which appears to be the increasing use in recent years of over-the-counter contracts. Such personalised dealings, conducted off the floor of regulated marketplaces, are subject to minimum disclosure requirements and extraordinarily difficult to monitor.

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Among the gongs... (left to right) Brian Moffat, Richard Evans and Clive Thompson

## Investitures in industry

Dan Atkinson

**E**XECUTIVES of companies that have contributed thousands of pounds to Conservative Party funds were among yesterday's winners in the Birthday Honours List.

Nigel Rudd, chairman of the Williams Holdings combine that paid £25,000 in both 1994 and 1995, is knighted, and Trevor Bonner, of GKN, which made identical donations, becomes a CBE.

There was a CBE also for Scottish & Newcastle chief executive Brian Stewart, the brewer gave the Tories £50,000 in both 1994 and 1995. And Clifford King of Trafalgar

House, which gave £10,000 in 1994, was made an OBE.

Eisewaters, there were knight-hoods for Zeneca chief executive James Barnes for services to the pharmaceutical industry; Leonard Chalcraft, Lord Mayor of London, for services to the City of London; Morgan Grenfell chairman John Craven for services to banking and the City.

Richard Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, for services to the aerospace and defence industries; British Steel executive chairman Brian Moffat, for services to the steel industry; and Rentokil chief Clive Thompson were also knighted.

There was a Companion of the Order of the Bath for Wil-

liam Willott, chief executive of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, and a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order for former Argyle supermarkets chief James Gulliver, a key figure in the 1986/88 bid battle for Distillers, for his work for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Sheila Masters, partner at KPMG, was made a DBE, and there were CBEs for Union Railways chief John Armit, Mott MacDonald chairman Robert Beresford, entertainment mogul Harvey Goldsmith, Tesco chief Alfred Margetts, ICI director Robert Margetts, and Brian Quinn, the ex-Bank of England director criticised while chief of banking supervision.

## SmithKline hints at health service pact

Sarah Whitebloom

**S**MITHKLINE Beecham has believed to sign the first accord between a pharmaceuticals and a British health services provider.

Fred Brugal, vice-president of SKB's Diversified Health Systems unit, told an industry conference in Paris on Thursday that a deal would be announced in the next three to four days. But he refused to give any details or say which service provider it will link up with the pharmaceuticals group.

Such deals are common in the United States, where drugs companies are contracted to provide treatment plans for patients with particular illnesses and agreements are made to give preference to a particular company's products.

But there is no such agreement in Britain and any precedent would provoke a political storm.

At the end of last month, health ministers were criticised by Labour and the unions about a consultation document which was seen as paving the way for local health authorities to strike accords with drugs firms.

Guidance banning such deals expires this month.

Mr Brugal said the accord would not be with the National Health Service but "eventually" that might happen.

The private health fund Bupa denied yesterday that it was involved.

## Knight Williams report calls on SIB to champion losers

Teresa Hunter

**T**HE Securities and Investments Board should take responsibility for ensuring clients of collapsed independent financial adviser Knight Williams are compensated, a report said yesterday.

The conclusions of an inquiry conducted by Professor Sir Ronald Mason at the company's request were delivered to the Chairman and MPs.

More than 400 investors have outstanding complaints against the firm, which channelled clients' funds into its unit trust subsidiary.

The inquiry into the collapse of what was once the UK's biggest firm of financial adviser calls on the SIB to make payments to aggrieved investors who had been promised compensation under a special complaints procedure set up by the watchdog.

Prof Mason said: "It seems to me that the SIB has an important role to play. I believe that it — and not individual claimants — should bring cases in the courts, by taking assignments and making payments to claimants in the amount it assesses."

"Some claimants will otherwise have great difficulty in establishing their claim, as their cases have been considered by arbitrators and rejected."

## Middle England beach boys hope to ride AIM's new wave

Sarah Whitebloom

**F**IRST, there was the pet retailer. Then, there was the dentist. Now, a surf shop wants to float on the Alternative Investment Market.

Legends Surf Shop plc currently has outlets at Birmingham, Cheltenham, Oxford and Leamington Spa — all about as far from the surf as it is possible to get in England.

But it does not matter. The shops' fashion merchandise is directed at people who are attracted by the connection with surfing, snowboarding and other "extreme sports". Actual participation — and surf — is not required.

Legends disclosed its ambition to join AIM yesterday as it launched a £166,666 offer for shares to be traded on Oxfex, a private market run by the small firms' marketmaker, JP Jenkins. The offer places a value of £1.67 million on the business, which was incorporated in 1995 and turned in pre-tax profits of £104,163 at the end of last January.

Most of the profit was derived from the Oxford-based shop, the only one which traded throughout the 10 months to which the profits relate.

The three directors, Sean O'Neill, the non-executive chairman, and Adrian and Christian Stewart plan to open a further four shops by the end of the year.

## Power deregulation 'could leave poor with higher bills'

Simon Beavis  
Industrial Editor

**S**OME three million low-income electricity customers could face higher bills when the power market is opened to full competition, unless the Government and the regulator take prompt action to protect them, Yorkshire Electricity has warned.

With all 22 million of the country's electricity consumers to be given the right to shop around for their power from 1998, Yorkshire has raised its concerns with ministers, Labour front-benchers and Stephen Littlechild, the industry watchdog.

The company — one of three regional electricity companies to have received takeover approaches or to have changed hands — fears that poorer households could face bigger bills and be forced to

cut electricity use. It believes that companies coming in to challenge the regional monopolies will try to cherry-pick well-off households.

This would leave local companies to meet the higher costs of serving poorer customers, and Yorkshire wants rules forcing competitors to share that cost.

The company estimates that serving low-income households costs up to 12 times more than supplying direct-debit customers.

Tony Coleman, Yorkshire finance director, said that energy minister Tim Eggart had expressed sympathy for the issue, but added: "What one doesn't know is if there is any enthusiasm for doing anything about it."

He was speaking as Yorkshire announced that its pre-tax profits edged up last year by just over £2 million to £213.3 million.

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Cyprus 0.8996	India 53.37	Norway 9.77	Switzerland 1.973
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111,552 and rising: small Eurotunnel shareholders get influence by proxy

Mark Milner European Business Editor

ALMOST 150 British shareholders in Eurotunnel have responded to the appeal — carried on last week's European Business page — from Paris-based professional investors' representative Sophie L'Hellias...

British shareholders with a total of 111,552 shares have given their proxies to Ms L'Hellias' company, Franklin Global Investor Services...

Ms L'Hellias, who was brought in to run the proxy campaign by the two French-based associations of Eurotunnel shareholders...

Ms L'Hellias said yesterday that she was delighted by the response from British shareholders.

"Please ask your readers to keep those proxies flowing in," she said.

Any other shareholder to appoint Franklin Global Investor Services as their proxy at the annual meeting can still do so by filling in the appropriate Eurotunnel SA and Eurotunnel PLC forms...

Gdansk shipyard to file for bankruptcy • Solidarity calls for nationwide strikes • Walesa tries rescue



Tale of two decades... Summer 1980, a woman speaks for Gdansk shipyard workers striking against Communist regime; summer 1996, a priest takes confession from a Gdansk worker, this time striking to save the shipyard from closure

Polish symbol of resistance crushed by market forces

Artur Morla in Warsaw

IN THE early 1980s, amid a blaze of publicity, workers at the Gdansk shipyard and their Solidarity trade union successfully defied the full might of the country's Communist regime.

Fifteen years on they have fallen victim to market forces. Last week, Poland's privatisation minister, Wieslaw Kaczmarek, announced that the shipyard would file for bankruptcy.

union is asking workers to help the shipyard by joining nationwide strikes and demonstrations on June 21 to support their cause.

Marian Krzaklewski, Solidarity national chairman, demanded Mr Kaczmarek's dismissal while, on the same day, about 60 members of parliament called for a vote of no confidence.

The government is adamant that the yard must close, however. On Thursday, the shipyard president, Kyszard Golech, filed papers to establish a new company, New Gdansk Shipyard (Nowa Stocznia Gdanska), with government backing...

present 7,000 shipyard workers.

Mr Kaczmarek is blunt. Taking on the yard's existing contracts without renegotiating them would simply be a recipe for further losses.

"In this case, the shipyard property will be worth less than garbage," he said.

Lech Walesa, the former Polish president and Gdansk shipyard electrician, acknowledged the economic case for bankruptcy but said the shipyard should have done more to restructure in recent years.

Three foreign companies have expressed interest but no firm bids have yet been tabled.

Credit Suisse takes an option on the world

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

CREDIT Suisse and US-based subsidiary CS First Boston are putting the finishing touches to a merger of their German operations...

In the wake of an outright rejection by competitor United Bank of Switzerland to a merger offer from Credit Suisse, the bank has pushed ahead with plans to absorb the Frankfurt office of its investment banking arm, CS First Boston...

In order to meet German legal and tax requirements, the offices must be combined by August 31 at the latest...

according to Credit Suisse managers.

If the merger goes smoothly, top brass in parent Credit Suisse Holding will order similar rationalisations in London, New York and other key financial markets...

One senior source said this week "Frankfurt is a test case for wider moves to end the divide between the companies. In the long run, it might even mean more jobs if we can make ourselves more efficient and get more market share."

Staff in Frankfurt are fearful that some of the combined workforce of 450 — a third of whom work for First Boston — will be laid off...

Suisse refused yesterday to confirm plans for labour-shedding.

Paul Hofer, head of Credit Suisse Northern Europe, said: "Our plans are at a very delicate stage right now, as we work out the structure of the new body. I don't want to discuss job losses at this stage."

Mr Hofer — who will lead the project to bring the two firms together from July 1 — is expected to head the merged company, Credit Suisse (Germany), once formal approval from the financial authorities is given.

He said the combination would make CS Holding more competitive in Germany, with Credit Suisse owning two-thirds of the new company, leaving CS First Boston with a one-third stake.

ahead, and on time," he said. "Any implications for our operations elsewhere will be made at a higher level."

Board members in Zurich are watching closely to see whether Mr Hofer succeeds in bringing together the aggressive, American, merger-and-acquisition culture of CS First Boston — which evolved out of a joint venture in 1988 — and the more cautious lending approach of Credit Suisse.

A wholesale merger has been on the cards since last year, after CS Holding was forced to pump more capital into First Boston and order an internal reorganisation, in an attempt to boost its lowly position on the US profit table.

And senior executives are re-evaluating the holding structure of the company —

established in 1989 — which was one of the reasons given by UBS for rebuffing Credit Suisse in April. CS Holding was intended to provide greater flexibility but insiders say strategic decision-making has been diluted.

Integration would also ease European access for CS First Boston, which recently complained that it had been excluded from a European Union tender to advise on the privatisation of a Hungarian bank because of its US connections.

The move follows a long-running dispute between CS First Boston and Zurich over long-term strategy and resentment about bonuses. A number of senior deal-makers walked out after bonuses in the fixed-income department were slashed by 15-20 per cent.

EC gears up for pollutant cuts row

Julie Wolf in Brussels

A BEHIND the scenes battle over cutting pollution from vehicles in Europe will burst into the open next week when the European Commission proposes new emissions and fuel standards.

After months of wrangling, the commission is due to adopt a package of legislation on motor pollution at its weekly meeting in Strasbourg on Tuesday, providing that the mad cow crisis does not force another delay.

In the case of the car industry, this took the form of an unusually blunt press release expressing car-makers' concern that the oil industry is being let off too lightly in the proposed legislation.

"The members of Aca [the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association] unanimously reckon that the new rules on air quality in the year 2000 will divide the effort fairly between the oil industry and the automobile industry," the statement said.

The car makers were alarmed by indications that the commission will not propose a steep reduction in the sulphur content of petrol and diesel fuel. Cutting sulphur in fuels would help to meet the commission's targets for reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides — a main pollutant in European cities, according to environmentalists and motor industry analysts.

The plans are aimed at ensuring the EU meets air pollution targets in 2010. They have been delayed by 18 months to allow for the completion of the EC's vehicle oil research programme. But critics say some of the oil findings have been ignored.

Passions fizzle in soap opera of wine families

ADELA GOOCH on a Catalan feud that threatens cava

A SMOULDERING battle between the two top producers of cava — Catalonia's challenge to champagne — turned into open warfare after the Codorniu winery accused its rival, Freixenet, of contravening production regulations.

Codorniu will claim in court that Freixenet has been short-cutting the cava ageing process. Freixenet argues back that Codorniu makes its wines with the wrong type of grape.

Underlying the dispute is a feud between the Raventos family which owns Codorniu, based in 1870 in the first cava — then allowed to go by the name of champagne — and the Ferrer family of Freixenet, just 50 years old, who they consider pushy parents.

For the past year Codorniu and Freixenet have been indulging in Falson Crest-style warfare. The series based in a California wine-growing area is very popular in Spain.

Although there are 268 registered cava producers, centred in the Penedes region about 50km south of Barcelona, the two houses account for almost 70 per cent of the market which has been making sharp inroads into champagne consumption. In 1989, world exports of champagne stood at 94 million bottles compared to 48 million of cava. By 1995 that difference had narrowed to just 28 million bottles — 86 million of champagne and 60 million of cava.

Nevertheless, profits on French champagne outclass those on cava six times over. Experts fear the feud could damage the cava industry, which earned 57 billion pesetas (£287 million) last year on sales of 142 million bottles and represents 13 per cent of Catalonia's gross domestic product.

The dispute has created two camps in the Penedes. "Codorniu is simply having a tantrum at the threat of losing its number one position," said one producer. Others back Codorniu's claim that Freixenet's aggressive techniques, aimed at making it number one, go too far.

Although Codorniu runs ahead, with 36.6 per cent of market share last year, Freixenet is catching up fast. It has a higher profile centred on Christmas advertising campaigns which each year feature stars like Sharon Stone and Richard Gere.

Spain's look forward to finding out who will take part each year and gossip magazines like Hola! provide coverage, and publicity for Freixenet, from September.

The Consejo Regulador del Cava, cava's regulatory body, has been trying to smooth the feelings between the two houses. Spain's agriculture minister, Loyola de Palacio, recently intervened to no avail.

Cava council regulations say the wine should ferment for a minimum of nine months after bottling before being sold to consumers and that only grapes native to the Penedes should be used.

Codorniu claims Freixenet leaves its wines in the cellars for as little as six months, thus cutting costs. Freixenet says Codorniu waters its vines unlawfully and uses Pinot Noir, the champagne grape, rather than the native Xarello, Macabeo and Parellada varieties.

The dispute could lead to changes in the regulations. According to Freixenet's president, Josep Ferrer, Codorniu's decision to go to court is a ploy to make the administration resolve in its favour. "These battles should not be fought using the law and media but in the appropriate regulatory bodies," he told a gathering of businessmen this week.

Many in Penedes are hoping for a swift end to the cava war. Otherwise, they fear, the beneficiary will be the oldest enemy of all — French champagne.

Spanish hoteliers defy the US over trade with Cuba

Andrew Robinson

PUT it down to 30 per cent margins rather than any sympathy for Fidel Castro, but Spanish hotel groups are facing down the US State Department over their investments in Cuba's booming tourist industry.

Firms such as Sol Meliá and Tryp have led the charge to cash in on Cuba's pristine beaches and cut-price labour force, with stakes worth over 10 billion pesetas (£50 million) in hotels in Havana, Varadero and Coliba. The investment has proved spectacularly profitable but has made the Spanish prime target of new US legislation which threatens to "track" with property expropriated after the 1959 revolution.

The Helms Burton Law, drawn up by Republican hawk Jesse Helms and Dan Burton and backed by the anti-Castro lobby, Cuban American Foundation (CAF), gives US citizens the right to file suit to reclaim property they owned under the Batista dictatorship.

Any assets that the guilty investor in Cuba has in the US could also be embargoed. The CAF included 97 Spanish firms in the black list of 301 investors in Cuba which it presented to the State Department last month.

Up to now, only Occidental Hoteles has cracked under the pressure, announcing on Wednesday that it had pulled out of a joint venture with the Cuban property developer Gavio — owned by the Cuban army — to manage four hotels in Varadero. Sol Meliá, the Mallorca-based group, took a different tack and said it would wind up its US activities rather than leave Cuba.

With Spanish business defiant, the six-week-old conservative Partido Popular government is in a mess over Cuba. Keen to mark out differences with the previous Socialist government, the PP has announced that all but humanitarian aid will be stopped.

But, of course, the PP is, first and foremost, a "pro-business party", and tourism is big business in Spain. Foreign minister Abel Matutes' dilemma sums it up. A millionaire from tourist haven Ibiza, with money invested throughout the Balearic Isles, Mr Matutes is a close friend of the Majorcan Escarrer family that owns Sol Meliá. Mr Matutes' own hotel group, Doligo, has begun to invest heavily in Cuba's Caribbean neighbour, Santo Domingo. Two weeks ago, the foreign minister surprised his own MPs the day after they voted down a Socialist motion condemning the Helms Burton Law, by declaring it "absolutely unacceptable".

Bank unreserved on EMU

Mark Milner European Business Editor

LOVERS of irony were given a treat this week. Ian Plenderleith, one of the Bank of England's executive directors, delivered an analysis of the impact of European economic and monetary union on the financial markets.

The UK is one of two countries with an opt-out from EMU. Mr Plenderleith chose to deliver his speech in Norway — which is not even part of the European Union. But there was a whiff of gunsmoke in the air. Despite protestations that he was not setting out to rival Mystic Meg in the clairvoyance stakes, Mr Plenderleith had his own ideas about the market infrastructure and policy tools available to the European System of Central Banks.

Though there would be a

range of money market instruments as at present, said Mr Plenderleith, "clearly at the core there will be one official, policy-determined, short-term interest rate common to all participating central banks — only one price, if you like, for central bank money".

Money market operators should be able to arbitrage in order to ensure the same interest rates on assets with the same credit risk and the same liquidity. Mr Plenderleith argued. The ESCB should steer interest rates through open market operations, though this could be backed up with a series of standing facilities.

More controversially, Mr Plenderleith insisted that the new central bank system should not be given tools that it did not need "and which may prevent or hinder the open market working efficiently".

He said: "This test is partic-

ularly relevant to the debate over positive minimum reserve requirements. Reserve requirements are not essential for the operation of monetary policy. Other tools are available which both fulfil the same function and avoid the distorting effects of positive and less than fully remunerated reserve requirements.

Reserve requirements — assets commercial banks have to deposit with the central bank — are a source of income to central banks which use the system but Mr Plenderleith argued that, in effect, they would represent a tax on the banking system.

That view may not go down well in Frankfurt. Despite pressure from German commercial banks, the Bundesbank remains attached to the concept of minimum reserve requirements. It is unlikely to want to see them scrapped.



Update

Spain's conservative government outlined reforms to spur growth and create jobs following on 200 billion pesetas worth of cuts which were announced by prime minister Jose Maria Aznar on taking office in May.

They include:
• Reducing inheritance tax and simplifying capital gains tax;
• Scrapping minimum fees for professionals as well as restrictions on where they can practise;
• Creating a competitor for

telecoms monopoly Telefonica;
• Abolishing price controls on some fuels; and
• Opening up the energy sector and removing binding restrictions.

The French government is to sell a further 6 per cent of car maker Renault through private placements priced at 139 francs per share. The sale will take the government's holding below 50 per cent.

European Business is edited by Mark Milner



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Plunder! A tale of oil and greed

**The first barrel came ashore from the North Sea 21 years ago — and the politicians swooped. In the first of a series, RICHARD THOMAS tells a sorry story of wasted billions and wasted lives**

**M**IDNIGHT in the middle of the North Sea, and Andy Zelas — called Z by everyone — is waxing philosophical. Holding court in the small drilling hut perched on the Scott oil platform 100 miles north-east of Aberdeen, Z bares his roughneck soul.

"My kids are proud of their dad," he says. "They tell their schoolfriends that their hearing only works because I'm out here getting the fuel out of the ground. Yeah, I'm proud of what I've done."

Z has seen the UK's continental shelf oil develop from its earliest days, and this week he will see North Sea oil come of age: Tuesday marks its 21st birthday.

In that time enough barrels to stretch to the moon and back six times have been pumped ashore, at the cost of more than 300 lives — almost matching British losses in the Falklands war. The Government has quietly raked in more than £100 billion of taxes.

Has it been worth it? Between gulps of coffee and minute adjustments to the drill head — which is sucking 140 barrels on board every minute — Z casts some doubts. "We could have made much better use of the oil — look at Norway, or Saudi Arabia," he says. "Central government doesn't want to know, as long as they get the revenue."

Over in the comfortable office block, Graham Wilson, offshore installation manager of Scott — which Amerada Hess brought on-stream in 1993 — gets to the heart of the issue.

"The North Sea subsidised monetary policy. It paid for high unemployment," he

says. "Meanwhile, the decline in manufacturing was unbelievable. The question is: what happens when the oil runs out — what'll be left?"

Mr Wilson's complaint echoes those of many commentators on the left, who have accused successive Tory governments of squandering the proceeds of a national asset on wrong-headed economic policies and tax bribes to voters. As Nigel Lawson admitted: "Whatever happens, we have got North Sea oil, and they have not."

It is fashionable to blame the Tories for pouring the oil money down the drain. Fashionable and wrong.

It was Labour which started North Sea oil off on the wrong foot, opening the door for Mrs Thatcher to pour the revenue into general expenditure, ignore the unions and — until Piper Alpha turned into a fireball in 1988 — allow operators to evade safety procedures.

**L**ABOUR'S manifesto in 1974 promised the establishment of a dedicated North Sea oil fund.

In 1978 a white paper committed the Government to an annual report on the use of North Sea oil. Despite the efforts of energy minister Tony Benn, there was no fund.

"So that is the end of saga of North Sea oil," Mr Benn wrote in his diary. "We are doing a sort of IMF in reverse. We are not putting the money into capital expenditure or public investment of one kind or another, we are going to give it away in tax cuts."

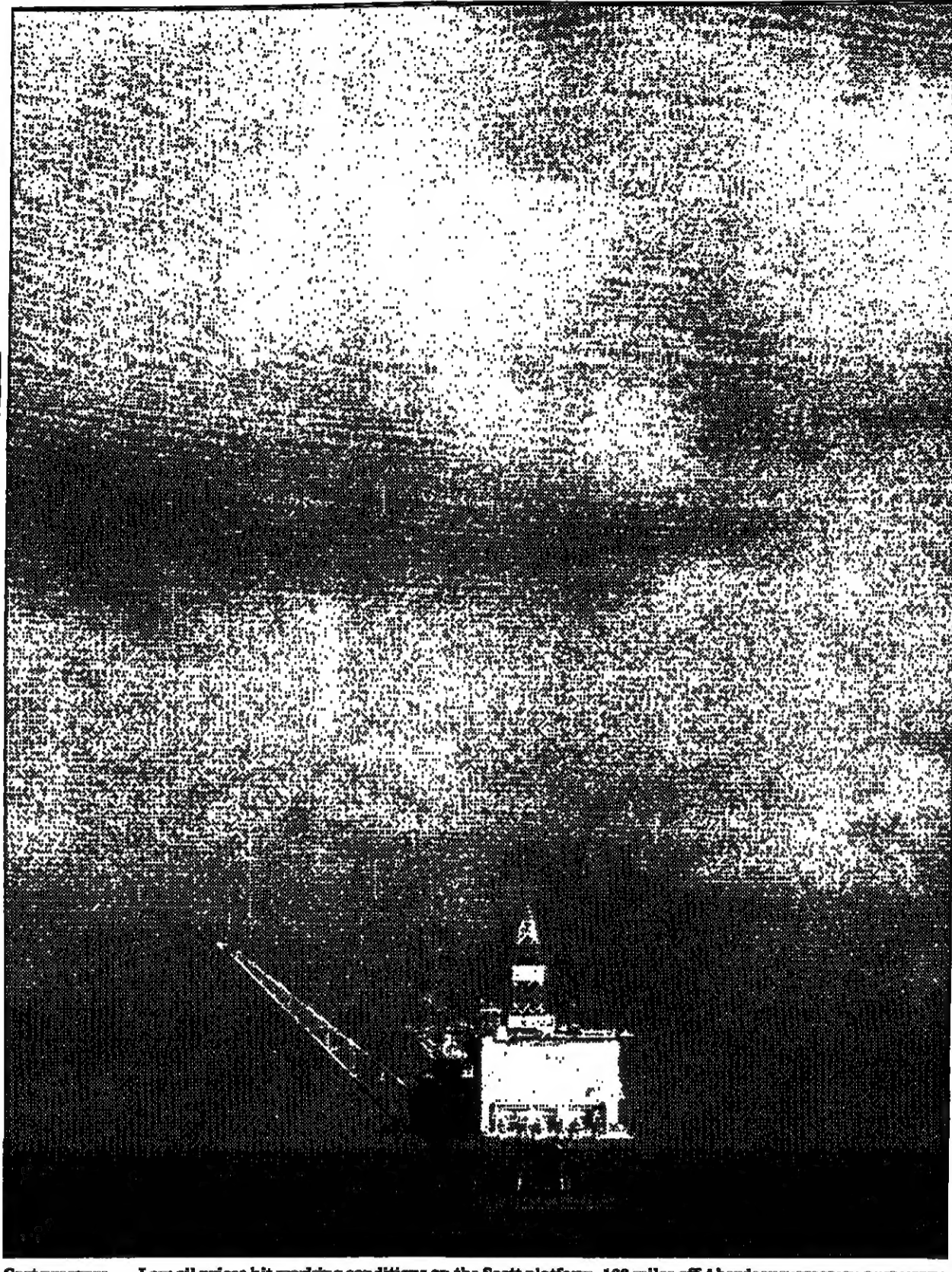
Mrs Thatcher simply copied Labour's strategy but with much more money — in the mid-1980s oil taxes topped £12 billion a year — and had more success in winning

elections.

Labour failed on two other counts. The newly established Health and Safety Executive (HSE), of which Michael Foot was so proud, was diluted to pacify the oil operators. By contrast to conditions in the coal mines, oil operators were not forced to consult unions about safety, and were exempt from regular HSE checks.

The North Sea has never been strongly unionised, in part because Mr Benn and his colleagues missed the opportunity to cement union rights offshore.

Despite industry fears that Labour would insist on



Cost pressure... Low oil prices hit working conditions on the Scott platform, 100 miles off Aberdeen. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID MOELL

greater union recognition, by 1979 there was only one collective agreement in the North Sea.

Given the failures of the 1974-79 Labour administration, it is difficult to imagine the money could have been put to much better use if Mrs Thatcher had lost any of her three elections.

Keith Douglas, Scott's rig supervisor — who is studying part-time for an MBA — says: "It is difficult to see where the money has gone. Look at the NHS, for example."

He doubts Labour would have done better: "All politi-

cians are the same under the surface. I can't imagine things would have been that different, even without Thatcher."

Until Piper Alpha, few people thought about the thousands of men — and now some women — working on the rigs. The BBC's recent Roughnecks series was the first such dramatisation of oil industry lifestyles.

If anything, there was only a vague perception, across the political spectrum, that the risks and lack of union support were outweighed by the huge salaries earned offshore. The loads money myth

is false today, if it was ever true.

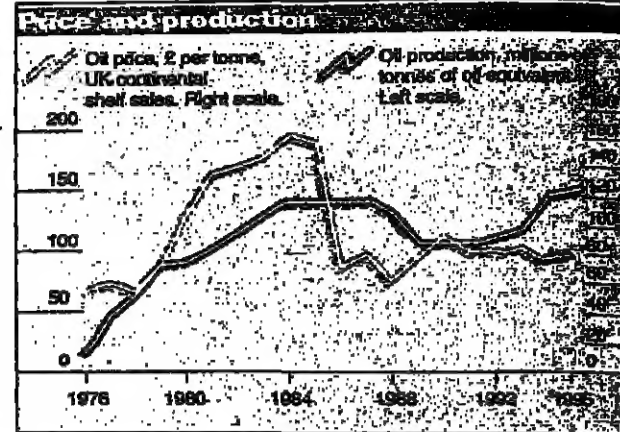
Colin Young, Scott's radio operator, says: "Back home in the pub they call me JR, the amount of money I'm supposed to have. They think I'm a millionaire." But pressure on operators resulting from low oil prices and increasing difficulty of extraction in smaller, more complex fields, has put a cap on wages.

An ordinary driller, the archetypal roughneck, earns about £27,000 a year — certainly not enough to buy Southfork. "Drillers are now underpaid. It's a cutthroat

business," says Mr Douglas. "But that's capitalism, I suppose."

Oil operators talk a lot about Crine — Cost Reduction in the New Era.

Z puts it slightly differently: "It's all about money; we're not getting it; the shareholders and operators are. Considering that we're responsible for people's lives out here, we're pretty badly paid. The oil operators are prepared to em-



ploy cheap labour while they rake in obscene profits."

And the squeeze between low prices and tougher drilling conditions is taking its toll on the mental health of Britain's 25,000 offshore workers. Even on Scott — which Mr Wilson proudly describes as the "Rolls-Royce of the North Sea" — with its gym, cinema and pool tables, the pressure is mounting.

The platform's offshore medical officer, Peter Grace, has just been told that he can no longer devote himself to health issues. Amerada Hess has laid off the two people who were responsible for managing helicopter flights; Mr Grace is having to do some of that work instead.

"People can't get to see me, they don't know where I am," he says. "I can't check the equipment. I need to be there in four minutes if someone has a heart attack. How can I do that from the helideck?"

He says the combination of increasing pressure to perform with job insecurity has pushed some people over the edge. "I have sent three stress cases back to the beach over the last few months, compared to just one in the five years previously."

Mr Grace is no big-hearted softie. His background is in the Royal Navy.

But he says: "Workers are the heroes of the North Sea, and they just get kicked in the head. Amerada Hess used to be one of the best, but as the competitive pressures mount, they get more like the EPs and Shells, who never treated people well — that's how they've made their money."

Nor are taxpayers any longer reaping the rewards of the oil money. To keep production going, the Government has sharply reduced the fiscal burden on oil companies since the price crash in 1985/86. In the 1995/96 tax year, after 10 years of decline, receipts were only £2.3 billion.

Some Labour insiders reckon a Blair government should slap a bigger tax bill on the oil companies to fulfil pledges on education, jobs and health. Of course, no one would dare say so publicly for fear of BP, Shell and Amerada Hess sending big cheques to Central Office.

Oil companies do pay a much lower proportion of

their take to the UK Government than elsewhere, but there is some justification. The UK continental shelf is a mature field. This means that the oil is harder to get out: drills now go around corners more often than straight down. And the remaining fields are small, so the return on investment in each is lower.

Meanwhile, the aftermath of Piper Alpha has forced the industry to sharpen up its act on safety. Fewer corners are cut. The heady days of the 1980s, when a company could sink a single drill into a huge field and suck it out cheaply and dangerously — are long gone.

Meanwhile, younger oil seams are being discovered. In Vietnam and Mexico, the fields are big and the water shallow and calm. Compared to the North Sea, the operators have it easy — so the governments can tax more heavily.

**T**he oil companies can probably afford to give the Exchequer more than the current £1 in every £3, especially if the price ticks up again. But if they are asked for much more, they could up sticks and go.

North Sea oil's teenage years, when the big bucks were made, have passed. Any amount of hoping and whining, from Labour or anyone else, won't bring them back.

The high-profit days were associated with a culture which was also hard on hard men risking all in a hard environment to bring in the black gold. Piper Alpha casts a long shadow. "Football needed Hillsborough; sadly, we needed Piper Alpha," says safety manager Alan Wilson.

The men have matured along with the oilfields. Many went offshore as young businessmen and now return to children and mortgages on "the beach". Hot heads have cooled.

"In the old days it was go-go," says Mr Douglas, who is now 36. "I came offshore when I was 20. We did crazy things out here and crazy things back on the beach. On leave we would drink all in a hard row with the boys, then fight with the missus for days. It is less macho now — we'll go home to see our kids and have a cup of tea."

Country	% of estimated reserves already extracted	Govt share of profits
UK	32	32
W Australia	38	38
Vietnam	1.5	84
Colombia	17	86

**Next: Energy men — Benn and Eggar write**

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## Sun, sea and the Net

# 20

Nicholas Bannister

**G**OING on holiday? Well, don't forget to pack the digital camera, the laptop computer, the battery recharger, the modem, and the appropriate power and telephone line adaptors. For the age of the electronic postcard is upon us, or so Kodak executives would have us believe.

Only a couple of months after launching a new film-based camera system to replace 35mm in the mass market, the company has now introduced a digital camera aimed at the consumer market.

At the same time, it is offering a free package enabling people to e-mail their pictures to friends on the Internet with very little hassle, and introducing special software that will make image manipulation easy for amateurs.

Kodak's ambition is to encourage people to do more

with their photographs than just stick them in an album or shove them in a drawer. It estimates that only 3 per cent of the six billion photos taken every year are ever reprocessed in any way — reprints, enlargements and the like.

The new digital camera, light and small enough to fit into a shirt pocket, takes a limited number of pictures of barely adequate resolution. These are then downloaded on to a PC, where they can be manipulated.

The company expects this combination of cameras and PCs will be used to create cards which can either be printed out or sent to others over the Internet.

Its executives see holiday-makers, for example, taking digital photos rather than picking their way through racks of postcards. They would then send them off, with appropriate messages, as postcards to friends — via computer and phone line.

The person receiving the file needs the software to see it, but Kodak helpfully explains how it can be downloaded, free of charge, from its Web site.

It's a lovely vision, but it doesn't take into account that few people going on holiday will be prepared to burden themselves with all the necessary equipment.

However, the £349 digital camera, which went on sale in the US and Britain this week, is an indicator that mass-market consumer photography is only just around the corner.

The camera's one megabyte of memory means that it can take only eight pictures of reasonable resolution or 16 of poor resolution. But if and when digital photography becomes more popular, chip prices will come down, opening the way for more memory and consequently better resolution. The latter is needed, because currently available print-outs, even on the best ink-jet colour printers likely to be found in the home, are still pretty fuzzy.

But it is unlikely to become a substitute for traditional film-based photography for consumers until high-resolution pictures can be taken and PCs and high-quality printers are commonplace in the home.

A mass-market pocket camera which would take both film-based and electronic pictures would be really smart. But don't hold your breath. Thinking the components will be hard enough. That will probably not be as difficult as persuading the film and digital disciplines within the photographic industry to work together.

### Quick Crossword No. 8153

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**Solution No. 8152**

**Across**

- 1 Thoughtless (13)
- 2 Self-important (7)
- 3 Balance (5)
- 10 Young cow (4)
- 11 Tinder (8)
- 13 Looseness (6)
- 14 Russian plain (6)
- 17 Hearing — spectators (8)
- 19 Soon — nameless (4)
- 21 Vermacular (5)
- 22 Inside a building (7)
- 24 Court judgment of execution (5,8)

**Down**

- 1 Mischievous child (3)
- 2 Intricate — obsession (7)
- 3 Midday (4)
- 4 Infuse (6)
- 5 Hasten (6)
- 6 Defence of being elsewhere (5)
- 7 Bearing leaves throughout the year (9)
- 10 Caved in (9)
- 12 Muscular power (8)
- 15 Card game — bridge? (7)
- 16 Writer (6)
- 18 Play (5)
- 20 Revise (4)
- 23 Observe — a diocese (3)

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Monday June 17 1996

The Norman Wisdom

## Watch the Bird

With Europe

## Ultimatum

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David Starvo, Catherine Cook and Rebecca Smeeth

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Inside

Britain

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